Minutes

of the

Annual Conferences

CHURCH of the BRETHREN

1945 - 1954

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THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Minutes of the
Annual Conferences
# of the
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
1945-1954

Compiled and edited by
ORA W. GARBER

BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE
Elgin, Illinois

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Introductory Statement

The 1943 Annual Conference adopted a policy of publishing the Conference minutes in "some convenient form" in ten-year cycles. This volume is the first ten-year compilation, issued upon the authorization of the 1954 Conference, which delegated the implementation of its decision to the General Brotherhood Board, which in turn lodged the responsibility with the Brethren Publishing House staff.

The compiler and editor has felt it not within his province to omit or abbreviate any minutes of the Conference, with the exception of those concerning queries laid on the table or queries returned, which were omitted because they did not involve any positive action on the part of the Conference or change in any way the church's course. Since many of the decisions of the Conference during this ten-year period were based on lengthy studies and reports, it has seemed necessary to include all such reports so that the bases for the decisions might be evident. This seeming necessity has resulted in a volume larger than had been anticipated, but it is hoped that it will accordingly be more useful to those who turn to it to find what the church's official actions and pronouncements have been during the last decade.

The various items of business are arranged under the years of final disposition rather than the years of initiation in cases in which Conference consideration extended over a period of years. Cross references have been made so that closely related yet separate items can readily be found. The index beginning on page 228 will also aid in finding any desired item. It is based on the wording of the titles of the queries, and excepting as these titles reflect the nature of the content of the queries, is not related to details of content.

Editorial changes on minor matters, such as the omission or insertion of a word or two for the sake of smooth reading or the deletion of numbers or letters identifying preceding queries, are not indicated in the text of this volume. These and other editorial changes have been kept to a minimum. The insertion of phrases or entire sentences into the body of a paragraph is indicated by bracketing those words. The addition of an explanatory paragraph is indicated by beginning the paragraph with the word Note printed with a capital and small capitals.

For ease of identification of the various parts of queries and reports we have aimed to secure the greatest possible degree of literary uniformity without doing violence to the original minutes. However, because of the various forms in which items of business were brought before the Conference and because of the various forms in which reports and decisions were printed it was not possible to secure absolute uniformity.

My thanks are extended to the following persons for assistance given to me in the course of compiling and editing these minutes: Grace Hollinger, administrative assistant in the office of the General Brotherhood Board, and Chalmer E. Faw, secretary of the Annual Conference, with whom I consulted on various matters and who examined the edited manuscript of the book. Without their help I could not have placed the completed work before the church with confidence that it would be both accurate and easily usable.

Ora W. Garber

Elgin, Illinois
January 1956

Table of Contents

1945, North Manchester, Indiana 9
1946, Wenatchee, Washington 27
1947, Orlando, Florida 44
1948, Colorado Springs, Colorado 87
1949, Ocean Grove, New Jersey 107
1950, Grand Rapids, Michigan 118
1951, San Jose, California 128
1952, Richmond, Virginia 163
1953, Colorado Springs, Colorado 190
1954, Ocean Grove, New Jersey 210
Index 228

1945, North Manchester, Indiana

Administration of Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund

1. The Pension Board asks Annual Conference through Standing Committee for the administration of the Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund in order that all funds designated by the church for the retirement and need of ministers be centered in one board.

2. We further ask Annual Conference through Standing Committee to use the yearly Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund as follows:

a. To continue the present plan which has been in effect for many years of helping to supply the real needs of our ministers and missionaries and their wives who have been forced to retire because of age or sickness.

b. To place yearly the balance of the Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund which is left after the needs of (a) have been cared for, into the supplementary fund of the Pension Board in order that the earned pension of members of the plan who have served the church for many years, but who will not on account of age receive sufficient pension upon retirement to care for their needs, be supplemented according to the decisions that might be reached by the Pension Board.

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Requests granted.

NOTE: See the minutes of the 1948 Annual Conference, under "Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund," for later Conference action on 2-b.

Bethany Biblical Seminary Campus Improvements

The Council of Boards presents to the Annual Conference through Standing Committee the request of Bethany Biblical Seminary for the privilege of soliciting, in addition to the annual item included in the Conference Budget, a sum of $150,000.00 for a new chapel building and other structural improvements on the seminary campus.

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Brethren Service Budget, 1946-47

The Council of Boards recommends to the Annual Conference through Standing Committee that the Brethren Service Budget for the year ending February 28, 1947, be $420,000.

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Budget adopted.

Compulsory Military Training

The Council of Boards presents to Annual Conference through Standing Committee the recommendation of the Brethren Service Committee that a statement on universal compulsory military training be filed in behalf of the church before the House Committee on Postwar

Military Policy. The attached copy is submitted as a suggested statement with the belief that the moderator of Annual Conference or someone whom he may designate should present the statement in person at the hearing arranged on June 12, 1945.

STATEMENT OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

(A Statement on Universal Military Training Authorized by Annual Conference as Testimony Before the House Military Committee on Postwar Military Policy)

The Brethren desire to express their opposition to the proposed program of universal compulsory military training as postwar policy of the government of the United States. Our opposition is based on the following considerations:

First: The Church of the Brethren originated in Germany nearly two and a half centuries ago. It has been committed from the beginning of its history to the example of Christ and the teachings of the New Testament. This leads us to believe that God's way for man requires the attitude of universal goodwill and the practice of brotherhood even toward our enemies.

The proposed universal military conscription plan cuts across our historic faith and we are compelled by virtue of religious conviction to register our opposition to the plan. Apart from the military aspect of the proposal, we believe that the element of compulsion inherent in the system is a violation of the Christian conception of the dignity, worth and freedom of the individual. The case of democracy itself rests on this same religious principle and when the state, as a matter of permanent national policy, presumes to exercise universal compulsion over the decisions and actions of its citizens it yields itself to the principle of totalitarianism. History shows that universal military conscription is usually a first step away from Christianity and democracy in the direction of tyranny and the absolute authority of the state. Our protest, therefore, is both in the name of our religious faith and of our conception of citizenship under a democratic government.

Second: The Church of the Brethren has endeavored to carry its full share of the educational load of the country through our program of higher education. We have through this medium contributed measurably to the scientific, educational, political, and religious leadership of the country. Our emphasis has been on liberal education, intelligent leadership, moral and spiritual integrity, and creative citizenship. Higher education is bound to discover and defend the truth and seek to apply it to human welfare. We must assert liberty of scholarship and of thought in the interest of sound education.

The proposed policy is, in our judgment, a reversal of American tradition in education. The army and the navy are not educational institutions. Their objectives are military. Their program of training is highly specialized, authoritative and rigidly prescribed. It seeks to establish conformity and obedience rather than independent leadership. The system presents a pattern of military indoctrination which has prevailed for many years in Germany and Japan and has twice in our generation brought its scourge upon the world.

We believe the system represents a dangerous trend in education and we object to it out of our interest in the American ideal of education.

Third: The Church of the Brethren objects to universal compulsory military training on international grounds. We believe that fear, suspicion and military rivalry among the nations of the world are one of the large contributors to war. Peacetime conscription is essentially nationalistic. It stands in contradiction to our international policy as expressed in the Atlantic Charter, the Dumbarton Oaks declaration and the avowed objectives of the San Francisco Conference. "Conscription has never stopped war nor made war less frequent." It places a strain on international relationships and is a threat to peace and order among nations.

Because our religion demands our supreme loyalty to God rather than to the state, we are unalterably opposed to the principle of conscription. Because democracy cannot survive in any except an atmosphere of freedom, we object to a system of universal mass training based on military authority. Because we regard the establishment of a permanent policy of military training on the part of our government as a reversal to the policies of militarism against which we have labored for these two and a half centuries and against which our manhood has suffered and died in two world wars, we must claim the right to dissent from this proposed policy of our government.

We love our government and desire to be loyal citizens. We want to bear our share of the burdens of our country, but we cannot follow blindly.

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Request granted and statement authorized.

Conference Budget, 1946-47

The Council of Boards presents the following budget for adoption for the year ending February 28, 1947:

General Mission Board	$254,450.00
Board of Christian Education	37,500.00
General Ministerial Board	7,750.00
General Education Board	5,000.00
Bethany Biblical Seminary	35,000.00
Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund	30,000.00
General Education Board (College Fund)	45,000.00
Historical Commission	1,500.00
	$416,200.00

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Budget adopted as revised in harmony with Conference action on these two queries: "Financial Support of Colleges" and "Revised Budget for the Historical Commission."

NOTE: See also related but separate financial items: "Brethren Service Budget, 1946-47," "Division of Budget Receipts," "One Million Dollars for Christ," and "Revision of the 1945-46 Budget."

District Title of Church Property

Queries, 1944

DISTRICT TITLE OF CHURCH PROPERTY

We, the Sterling congregation, in council assembled, feeling it wise to provide for continuity and greater security in the ownership of local church property, petition the district meeting of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin to request the Annual Conference to provide that any local congregation so desiring may designate the district mission board, or some other district board, as holder in trust of the title to such local property.

Charles W. Cosey, Clerk

Answer of district meeting:

Whereas, it is to the best interest of the church body as a whole that holding and disposing of church property should be under the direction of general council of the church; therefore be it resolved by the Annual Meeting of the Church of the Brethren:

1. That all local church property be held by local trustees in trust for the uses and benefits of the ministry and membership of the Church of the Brethren in the United States of America, subject to the rules, uses, and appointments of said church as from time to time decided and declared by the Annual Meeting.

2. That whenever it is found advantageous to sell or dispose of a particular property, the sale and conveyance shall be executed under the direction of the local church by the trustees holding it in trust and joined in by the executive officers of the district board of the district where the property is located.

DISTRICT CONTROL OF CHURCH PROPERTY

Inasmuch as our present plan of local congregations having absolute control of their church properties is resulting in their being taken over here and there by subversive groups, and a number of them being entirely lost to the church, the Springfield Church of the Brethren of Northeastern Ohio hereby petitions Annual Conference through district conference to make provision whereby our church properties cannot be occupied, sold, transferred, or otherwise disposed of without the consent of either the district elders' body or some other appropriate district authority.

Fred Young, Church Clerk

Answer of district meeting: Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of 1944 Annual Conference: Referred to a committee for study and report next year. Committee: D. G. Wine, W. H. Brower, Hylton Harman.

Report of the Committee, 1945

Whereas, there is some concern among our churches over the present method of holding title to church property, and

Whereas, this concern, which your committee after investigation believes is more local than general, is justified in part by reason of the complete lack of uniformity in holding church property titles, it being true that some churches have no legal title whatever to the property they now use, and

Whereas, it would be to the best interests of the local congregations as well as the general brotherhood if church property titles were cleared and vested for the use of the Church of the Brethren and her beliefs as a matter of protection for both the local congregations and the general brotherhood:

Now, therefore, in answer to these queries your committee respectfully recommends:

1. That each district through its duly elected officers in co-operation with the churches in said district make a thorough investigation of the title to each church property within that district to determine in whom it is vested and if it is merchantable and to take such steps as may be needed to correct any which are not.

2. That the district or districts of each state in which we have churches appoint a state committee to investigate and acquire competent legal opinion as to the state law governing the legal holding of church property in their respective states and report their findings to the districts.

3. That upon the basis of such findings mentioned in paragraph two above, each district, where needed, provide a system of joint control of church property by the local congregation and the district in harmony with the state law. This shall not be construed so as to permit the use of compulsion or coercion upon any local congregation but shall depend upon the voluntary co-operation of each local congregation wishing to participate in the system of joint control of church property.

D. G. Wine (chairman), Hylton Harman, W. H. Brower

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Division of Budget Receipts

The Council of Boards recommends to Annual Conference through Standing Committee the rescinding of G-4 of the 1943 Annual Conference's action on emergency funds for our colleges [beginning on page 193 of *Minutes of the Annual Conferences, 1923-1944*]: "That the General Mission Board, the Brethren Service Committee and the General

Education Board share in the giving of the church in proportion to their budget askings. Any excess will be divided according to the need as proposed by the Council of Boards and approved by Annual Conference," and further that the budget for the General Education Board, except the asking for the colleges, be included as the normal budget asking along with the other service agencies of the Conference Budget as endorsed by Annual Conference in 1935.

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Request granted.

NOTE: For a related recommendation concerning the church's financial aid to the colleges, see the 1945 query entitled "Financial Support of Colleges."

Evangelism

The Council of Boards presents to Annual Conference through Standing Committee the recommendation of the General Ministerial Board that in the light of the present world situation with its widespread warfare and attendant lowering of the general moral and spiritual levels of life the church should initiate a definite program of spiritual offensive for the coming year in the field of evangelism as follows:

(1) By asking regional and district boards and organizations to seek to promote both mass and personal evangelism within their several areas as largely as possible.

(2) By calling on all pastors to give special attention to evangelism in their churches in all ways which seem most opportune and effective.

(3) By requesting all Sunday-school teachers and directors of Christian education to give special attention to educational evangelism in their work.

(4) By suggesting as far as possible that a goal of at least one new member for every twenty-one present members be set for the year 1945-46.

(5) By asking our church publications as far as seems possible and consistent with their policy to give frequent publicity to this emphasis, bringing it to the attention of our membership.

(6) By authorizing the General Boards to create such literature as may be helpful in the promotion of evangelism.

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Recommendation adopted.

Federal Council of Churches

Query, 1944

Inasmuch as it appears that the church became affiliated with the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America without adequate study by the church in general;

And whereas it has been the policy of the church to move forward with as complete unity as possible;

Therefore Standing Committee recommends to Conference that a committee of five be appointed to study the facts concerning the Federal Council, together with the general attitude of the brotherhood to it, to the end that our people may have dependable information, and that the unity of the church may be maintained. Report to be made next year.

Answer of 1944 Annual Conference: Request granted. Committee: C. C. Ellis, C. D. Bonsack, J. Clyde Forney, Edward Kintner, W. H. Yoder.

Initial Report of the Committee, 1945

History. At the Annual Conference held at La Verne, California, in 1941, a paper was presented to the Conference from the Council of Boards which recommended that the Annual Conference authorize constituent membership in the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. Approval was given to the recommendation, and five representatives, three alternates and two members to the executive committee of the Council were appointed. At the Annual Conference of 1942, held at Asheville, North Carolina, the district of Middle Pennsylvania asked reconsideration of our membership in the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. This was granted; but after discussion the 1941 La Verne Conference decision was reaffirmed.

While there was no regular query on the subject before the Huntingdon Conference of 1944, the Standing Committee, feeling that the unity of the church would be served thereby, presented to Conference the above recommendation, which was adopted, and a committee was appointed.

Procedure. Your committee in pursuance of its assignment has devoted much prayerful study to the literature of the Council and of its opponents and has interviewed officers of the Council and others. The committee has also through personal interviews, a brotherhood-wide questionnaire and much correspondence endeavored to ascertain the attitude of the church respecting the matter. An all-day meeting of the committee was held in the month of August [1944] and a two-day meeting in the late part of the month of January 1945. Both of these meetings were attended by all the members of the committee, who endeavored to give prayerful, careful, and fair consideration to every phase of the subject.

As our Conference commitment indicates, it is unfortunate that the church became affiliated with the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America without adequate study of the matter by the church in general. Your committee has been charged with the responsibility of giving to the church dependable information on the subject. Accepting this assignment seriously and with no desire to be other than fair both to the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and to the brethren honestly opposed to this affiliation, your committee has had but one desire, namely, to present to the Conference a report that will be acceptable to our Lord.

Churches' Attitude. We have found that the feeling on this question varies greatly in different sections of the brotherhood, ranging from none at all to considerable anxiety in the hearts of some. In consequence, the attitude of the churches also varies greatly, from active interest and support, through more or less indifference, to active opposition.

Some of the opposition arises from a misunderstanding of the purpose and the activities of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America; some from a fear that co-operation on our part will lead to loss of denominational identity or of our distinctive principles; some to criticism of past activities of the Federal Council of Churches; some because of theological views of certain men who are members of churches constituting the Federal Council of Churches; some is obviously due to prejudice.

The Federal Council's Objectives. The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America is a federation of national evangelical denominations. It disavows any intention or effort to dictate the doctrinal beliefs of its constituent members. There is one basic doctrinal statement in the preamble of its constitution in these words—

"Whereas in the providence of God, the time has come when it seems fitting more fully to manifest the essential oneness of the Christian churches of America in Jesus Christ as their divine Lord and Savior and to promote the spirit of fellowship, service, and co-operation among them. . . ." The Biennial Report of 1942 interprets this as "an affirmation of the deity of Christ, in keeping with the historic faith of Christianity."

The constitution of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America indicates the objectives of the Council thus:

"I. To express the fellowship and catholic unity of the Christian church.

"II. To bring the Christian bodies of America into united service for Christ and the world.

"III. To encourage devotional fellowship and mutual council concerning the spiritual life and religious activities of the churches.

"IV. To secure a large combined influence for the churches of Christ in all matters affecting the moral and social conditions of the people, so as to promote the application of the law of Christ in every human relationship of Christ.

"V. To assist in the organization of local branches of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America to promote its aims in their communities."

Organization of the Council. In pursuance of these objectives the Council has organized a Field Department, Department of Evangelism, Department of International Justice and Goodwill, Department of the Church and Social Service, Department of Race Relations, Department of Research and Education, Department of Relations with Churches Abroad, Department of National Religious Radio, as well as various commissions dealing with worship, religion, and health, etc. Our own Brethren are members of various ones of these commissions. For instance, our moderator, Warren D. Bowman, has for a few years been vice-chairman of the Commission on Marriage and the Home.

Activities of the Council. Among the activities of the Council may be named the establishing of the annual Christian mission under the Department of Evangelism, which was carried to cities, camps, and universities, in which missions our own Brethren have served; research and publications in the fields of the devotional life, social uplift, race relations, and international goodwill; radio broadcasting; an extended wartime emergency program of Christian service including refugees and overseas relief; and a protest against diplomatic representation at the Vatican, and also against exclusion of Protestant missions and missionaries from South America.

Criticisms Against Our Affiliation. Criticisms against our affiliation with the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America have arisen which prove to be in many instances criticisms of individuals who may be either officers of the Council or persons employed by it. It seems clear that some individuals prominent in the Federal Council have given expression to sentiments at variance with the accepted doctrines of historic Christianity. While these individuals may be in good standing in their denominations, and while the Federal Council waives responsibility for the statements of individuals, it is, nevertheless, true that in the popular mind the Council is credited with the responsibility.

Other criticisms prove to be centered upon persons and issues of years ago and do not apply to the present. For example, the pamphlet, *A Christian View of Marriage,* gives the authentic, up-to-date attitude of the Council on this subject. One strong criticism of the Council lies against its pacifist influence upon our government. On the other hand, our Brethren representatives at the Cleveland Council meeting were unable to endorse the Council's statement relating to the war. In this area the criticisms against the Council have proved to be contradictory.

Conclusion. It is impossible of course in this report to embody every detail which has had our consideration; but we have aimed to present the facts as we have found them, and to express only such judgment when necessary as is maintained by the facts we have found.

It is our hope and prayer that the church will read and study the report in the spirit in which it has been worked out — the spirit which characterized our Conference and the appointment of the committee— and that every effort will be made to maintain the unity of the church in the bonds of peace and love.

C. C. Ellis
C. D. Bonsack
J. Clyde Forney
Edward Kintner
W. H. Yoder

Supplementary Report of the Committee, 1945

Urgent requests from many brethren have come to the committee for a definite recommendation for the action of the 1945 Annual Conference. In deference to these requests, we present the following:

The study of the problem of our affiliation with the Federal Council by the Conference committee has led to the conclusion that the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America is simply an affiliation of Protestant denominations, such as county Sunday-school associations, local ministerial associations, the Home Missions Council, and others with which our brethren from time to time have co-operated. Each affiliated denomination, whether creedal or non-creedal, is responsible for its own doctrinal statement and responsible also for those who minister under its direction. It should be kept in mind in this connection that each delegate to district and annual conference of the Church of the Brethren, in addition to being in good standing in the church, signs the Declaration of Principles and Purposes, which are stated as follows:

1. I again declare my faith in, and grateful acceptance of, Jesus Christ, "the only begotten Son of God," as my personal Savior; and the Bible as God's infallible Word of Truth, and the New Testament as the ultimate rule of faith and practice for men (John 1:14; 3:16, 36; 12:47, 48; Luke 21:33; Acts 10:43; 2 Timothy 3:16).

2. It is my sincere endeavor, in submission to God's Holy Spirit, to make my life, at all times, in purpose and in act, a true expression of the teaching of Jesus and his apostles (1 Corinthians 10:31-33; Romans 12:1 and 2).

3. I pledge my loyalty, my life and influence, to the Church of the Brethren and to her doctrines and practices as taught by the Scriptures and defined by her General Conference (1 Peter 1:13-16; 3:3-4; James 5:12; Luke 3:14; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8; John 18:20; 1 Peter 5:13-14; John 13; 1 Corinthians 11:1-21).

4. As a delegate to the above-named conference, I promise prayerfully to consider, with open mind and teachable spirit, all matters presented, and to act, by voice and vote, in good faith, for the best interests of the church, that she may continue to be "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Romans 14:22, 23).

Since at two different Conferences all who voted on this question had signed the above declaration; since the time-honored custom of the Brethren has been to accept the vote of the church as the guidance of the Spirit in accordance with Matthew 18 and Acts 15; and since our experience with the Federal Council has been too brief to warrant a change in our relationship to it, your committee is led to recommend to Standing Committee and to Conference that the Church of the Brethren continue its co-operation with the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America until the Holy Spirit leads otherwise. Also, we recommend that a committee of three be appointed to serve for three years, to create better understanding where it is needed and to make such further recommendations to General Conference as may seem wise for the peace and unity of the church.

C. C. Ellis, Chairman
Edward Kintner
C. D. Bonsack
W. H. Yoder
J. Clyde Forney

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Report and recommendation of committee adopted. Committee of Understanding: Charles D. Bonsack, J. W. Lear, James M. Moore.

Financial Support of Colleges

The Council of Boards presents to Annual Conference through Standing Committee the recommendation of the General Education Board on financial support to our colleges:

In view of the importance of Christian higher education in the life and work of the church; and because of the difficulty in maintaining a church program of higher education especially during the war and postwar periods; and because of the outright financial assistance which our colleges have through the years given to ministers, missionaries and their children through scholarships and allowances, and in order that this service may be continued, we recommend the following plan as a permanent policy of granting financial aid to our colleges:

(1) It shall be understood that the management of our colleges and the major responsibility for their financial support rests with the regions and areas in which they are located and that districts, congregations, and individuals should continue generous financial support both for current expense and for capital funds.

(2) That it be the policy of the Church of the Brethren to make an annual appropriation to our colleges from the Conference Budget.

(3) That the appropriation for the year beginning March 1, 1946, be $7,500 for each of our six colleges.

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Historical Society Recognized

Query, 1944

In 1898 a request from the Green Tree church came through district meeting to General Conference for recognition of the Brethren Historical Society recently organized with headquarters at Germantown. Conference encouraged but did not fully recognize. Meetings of the society at Conference through the years produced very valuable historical materials. The outstanding historian of the Brethren Church, Dr. M. G. Brumbaugh, became interested and became chairman of the executive committee and greatly desired, before his death, that the society become thoroughly established.

Wherefore, we, the executive committee, who through the dark years have maintained our zeal, herewith, through the district meeting, now convened at Green Tree, humbly request the General Conference convening at Juniata College, where Dr. Brumbaugh did his great work for our beloved brotherhood, to give full recognition to our Historical Society that it may go forth unhindered to bestow its blessings on our members and institutions.

Answer of district meeting: Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of 1944 Annual Conference: Referred to a committee of three for study and report next year. Committee: H. A. Brandt, L. W. Shultz, B. F. Waltz.

Report of the Committee, 1945

To the Annual Conference of 1945:

We, your committee appointed at the Annual Conference of 1944 to study Brethren historical interests, desire to submit the following report:

It is a matter of profound gratitude that there is a growing interest in Brethren history and historical writing. This Conference should commend the pioneer efforts made by individuals and groups in writing our church history and in collecting and preserving historical material by our colleges, seminary, and publishing house.

Annual Conference considered the matter of a historical society for several years beginning in 1898. No definite action was taken in approving the proposed society and its constitution, but those who were interested were encouraged to do historical research. The Council of Boards appointed a historical commission in 1938 and in 1941 the Annual Conference approved the action of the Council of Boards and authorized the Council to provide funds for the commission's work.

The committee appointed by the Conference of 1944 to study the matter and report recommends:

I. That this Conference appoint a historical commission of five members for five-year terms, excepting those first chosen, who would serve for five-, four-, three-, two-, and one-year terms. This commission will report to and work with the Council of Boards, report to Annual Conference, present historical programs and exhibits at Annual Conference, and present requests to the Council of Boards for funds to be appropriated through the budget.

II. That the historical commission shall have the following functions:

1. To form a fellowship of Brethren historians, librarians, and any interested in the work of the commission. It will also encourage the formation of regional and district historical fellowship societies.

2. To stimulate the writing of present and past Church of the Brethren history.

3. To secure, where possible, valuable church records and make them available.

4. To encourage the building of family genealogies.

5. To complete and revise continually a union list of Brethren material now in our depositories.

6. To build a central collection of Brethren material at Elgin and an eastern collection at Germantown, and to encourage our colleges and our seminary to enlarge their present collections.

7. To look toward and promote a national church memorial at the mother church in Germantown.

III. That this Conference urge upon the brotherhood at large the importance of continuing this work, and specifically that individuals seek to place in the libraries of church institutions the essential records and materials scattered here and there without adequate provision for their preservation. That the historical commission is hereby appointed the custodian of the J. H. Moore Historical Library and such other material of historical value as may be acquired and preserved in the vaults and the historical room at the Brethren Publishing House.

H. A. Brandt, B. F. Waltz, L. W. Shultz (secretary)

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Report adopted with revision. Commission appointed as follows: L. W. Shultz, 1950; H. A. Brandt, 1949; J. E. Miller, 1948; Floyd E. Mallott, 1947; B. F. Waltz, 1946.

Ministerial Discipline

Query, 1944

The Annual Conference has granted to districts the authority to discipline ministers or pastors when the offense merits it [page 167 of *Minutes of the Annual Conferences, 1923-1944*], yet we find that under the present setup in the Church of the Brethren our method of disciplining a minister or pastor is too indirect, loses too many members of the church, and loses too many properties of the brotherhood.

Whereas, a minister or pastor can intrench himself in a congregation that he has divided, and

Whereas, he can be and frequently is a source of schisms over doctrines, property, his employment, etc., thus ruining congregations, seizing church properties, and defying superior church authorities,

We, the district ministerial board, ask district meeting of Eastern Maryland of 1944 to petition the Annual Conference of 1944, meeting at Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, to appoint a committee to study the advisability of ministers of the Church of the Brethren holding their church membership in the district conference, and report one year hence.

William Kinsey, Secretary, District Ministerial Board
Berkley O. Bowman, Secretary, Eastern Maryland District Meeting

Answer of 1944 Annual Conference: Referred to a committee for study and report next year. Committee: D. G. Wine, W. H. Brower, Hylton Harman.

Report of the Committee, 1945

Your committee respectfully reports that it is of the opinion that sufficient authority and machinery is now in existence to deal adequately with the problem presented if used, and therefore recommends the study and use of the rulings of Annual Conference as reported on pages 90, 91 and 92 of the 1922 revision of Annual Conference minutes and as reported in the minutes of Annual Conference for the year 1942.

D. G. Wine (chairman), Hylton Harman, W. H. Brower

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

NOTE: For a related concern see the minutes of the 1947 Conference, the section of the query "Brotherhood Organization" which deals with counseling and discipline.

Nomination for Church Boards

Query, 1944

The Meyersdale church in Western Pennsylvania asks Annual Conference through district conference to give attention to the ways in which the officers of the Conference and members of the various standing boards of the church are nominated with a view to greater efficiency. Furthermore, we recommend for consideration the appointment of a permanent nominating committee of five, representing the five regions of the brotherhood; to be elected for one, two, three, four, and five years respectively; to serve for a term of five years, not being eligible for a succeeding term until after the passing of one term; and whose duties shall be:

(1) To make a careful inquiry into the duties of the various offices of the Conference and the various boards of the church and to list the qualifications necessary to serving efficiently in official capacity and as a member of the General Boards.

(2) To give attention to the matter of equitable representation by regions and districts in the offices of the Conference and within the membership of the General Boards.

(3) To discover the best leadership ability of the brotherhood for positions of responsibility within the brotherhood program.

(4) To make the nominations now made by Standing Committee with the understanding that the nominating committee shall, after careful study and prayerful deliberation, submit its findings, consisting of at least two nominees for each office and board vacancy, to the Standing Committee for acceptance, rejection, or amendment. When the nominating committee's report shall have been approved, Standing Commit-

tee will then vote and determine the nomination to be submitted to the Conference for approval.

Mrs. Paul D. Koontz, Clerk

Answer of district meeting: Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of 1944 Annual Conference: Referred to the committee on Home Missions and Reorganization of our General Boards for study and report.

Report of the Committee, 1945

With reference to the request for a permanent nominating committee, we recognize that there is merit in the request in that Standing Committee often does not have sufficient time for full consideration. Even so, we consider that Standing Committee because of its representative nature is sufficiently qualified for the task, but we urge that it meet earlier and take more time and give greater consideration and thought to the nomination of officers, board and committee members, and persons for other important tasks.

Furthermore we recommend that Standing Committee set forth two nominees for each vacancy to be filled for the officers of the Conference and members of the General Boards. Immediately following this the committee shall meet with the delegates from the congregations, where the voting shall be done.

J. W. Lear
Ross D. Murphy
Charles D. Bonsack
James M. Moore
Norman A. Seese

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Report adopted with revision.

NOTE: See the minutes of the 1947 Conference, the query entitled "Brotherhood Organization," I-F-4 of the section dealing with Annual Conference, for a later action on this matter.

One Million Dollars for Christ

Recognizing the tragic plight of so many human beings, the increasing need for human redemption through Christian evangelization which is manifested through challenging opportunities for expansion on all our mission fields, and unequalled opportunities to do relief work, and further believing that the gospel of Christ is the only answer to our many and perplexing problems, and knowing that for the past fiscal year our giving totaled $872,446.25, which represented only approximately one and one-third cent per capita per day, the Council of Boards recommends:

That Conference call on the churches to oversubscribe the regular combined Conference Budget asking of $387,000.00 and the Brethren Service asking of $420,000.00 to at least $1,000,000 for the year ending

February 28, 1946, so that we may more adequately meet these challenging needs.

It is further recommended that every congregation conduct an every-member presentation by personal canvass or other method. That in this presentation of the need members be invited to give toward the special One Million Dollars for Christ Fund. Members desiring to designate toward either the Conference Budget or the Brethren Service program may do so.

We further recommend that Conference lay the responsibility for this upon the hearts of all members and especially pastors, finance boards, and other officials, and ask our general boards and the regional and district fieldmen to prepare ways and means for the fulfillment of this ministry to the world.

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Parish Loan Fund

The Council of Boards presents to Annual Conference through Standing Committee the recommendation of the General Mission Board that to the Parish Loan Fund of $50,000.00 approved at the 1943 McPherson Conference there be added an additional $25,000.00 to be taken from the Mission Building and Contingent Reserve Fund of the General Mission Board.

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Revised Budget for the Historical Commission

The Council of Boards presents to Annual Conference through Standing Committee the recommendation of the Historical Commission for revision of the budget for the year ending February 28, 1946, to allow the Historical Commission $1,500 instead of $1,000; and further that a like sum of $1,500 is recommended for the Historical Commission for the year ending February 28, 1947.

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Revision of the 1945-46 Budget

The Council of Boards presents for revision the budget for the year ending February 28, 1946:

	Budget as Adopted by 1944 Conference	Budget With Proposed Changes
General Mission Board	$249,450.00	$249,450.00
Board of Christian Education	28,300.00	28,300.00
General Ministerial Board	7,750.00	7,750.00
General Education Board	5,000.00	5,000.00

General Education Board (College Emergency)	30,000.00	30,000.00
Bethany Biblical Seminary	29,500.00	35,000.00
Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund	30,000.00	30,000.00
Historical Commission		1,500.00
	$380,000.00	$387,000.00

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Current budget adopted as revised.

Special Gift (Annuity) Agreement Rate Revision

The Council of Boards presents to Annual Conference through Standing Committee the recommendation from the General Mission Board and from representatives of our Brethren colleges and church institutions writing Special Gift contracts that the rate schedule adopted by the 1940 Ocean Grove Conference be revised in keeping with the trend of lower interest rates in our country. The revised uniform maximum rates to be used by Church of the Brethren institutions writing Special Gift Agreement contracts would begin at 2.5% for one person at age twenty-five and would continue upward with a maximum rate of 7% for one person at age eighty or over. The rate would be slightly lower for contracts which include two persons. The rate schedule, being different for every age, cannot be published in this booklet but the institutions writing Special Gift contracts are in position to quote rates.

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Recommendation adopted.

Study of Home Missions, Duties of the Moderator, and Reorganization of Our General Boards

NOTE: See the minutes of the 1946 Annual Conference, under "Brotherhood Organization," for a summary of the steps which led to the reorganization of the brotherhood.

1946, Wenatchee, Washington

Brotherhood Budget, 1947-48

The Council of Boards presents the following budget for adoption for the year ending February 29, 1948:

Conference Budget:	
General Mission Board	$315,200
Board of Christian Education	48,000
Board of Christian Education (Hymnal Fund)	2,500
General Ministerial Board	7,750
General Education Board	5,000
Bethany Biblical Seminary	40,000
Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund	30,000
General Education Board (College Fund)	45,000
Historical Commission	1,500
	$494,950
Brethren Service	500,000
Federal Council of Churches (payable from funds so designated)	1,500
	$996,450

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Budget adopted as revised.

NOTE: For other actions of this Conference determining details of the above budget see "Publication of a New Brethren Hymnal" and "Revised Budget for Bethany Biblical Seminary." This budget was revised in 1947; see the 1947 query entitled "Revision of Conference Budget, 1947-48." For a financial matter not related to the budget see "Revised Budget for the Brethren Service Committee," in the 1946 minutes.

Brotherhood Organization

(Report of the Commission of Fifteen)

Summary of Previous Actions

For some time there has been widespread feeling on the part of many people that the organizational structure of the church should be simplified and unified. The matter has been studied for several years by various committees appointed by the Annual Conference, as the following report will show. The Standing Committee, assembled at Wenatchee this year, feeling that the time for action had come, authorized the Commission of Fifteen to present to the full Conference that part of its report which contains proposals for brotherhood organization. . . .

In 1942 at Asheville the Annual Conference in response to a query from the district of Northern Virginia authorized the formation of a committee of three members to study "the question of general home mission policy and the proper co-ordination and supervision of all home mission work which is supported by district and general brotherhood funds." The committee was composed of C. D. Bonsack, J. W. Lear, and N. A. Seese.

The McPherson Annual Conference of 1943 authorized the appointment of two additional members to the above committee — James M. Moore and Ross D. Murphy — and instructed the committee in response to another query from the district of Northern Virginia to consider in addition "the simplification and integration of the over-all organization of our church."

This larger committee brought a tentative report to the Huntingdon Annual Conference in 1944 for the consideration of the brotherhood during the following year. In 1945 at the North Manchester Annual Conference the committee brought the following recommendation:

"We, as a committee, recommend the appointment of a commission of fifteen members to study the development of the church, her present organizational needs in the light of her future program in advancing the Kingdom of God, and to formulate a constitution and a church discipline which will provide a minimum amount of organizational machinery and a maximum efficiency in performing the task set before the church."

The Annual Conference appointed the following commission: William M. Beahm, Desmond W. Bittinger, Earl M. Bowman, Rufus D. Bowman, Paul K. Brandt, Calvert N. Ellis, J. Clyde Forney, Hylton Harman, J. W. Lear, D. I. Pepple, John A. Pritchett, H. F. Richards, W. H. Yoder, Harry K. Zeller, Jr., and Edgar Rothrock (deceased). S. L. Barnhart has been appointed by the Annual Conference to take the place of Edgar Rothrock.

NOTE: The Commission of Fifteen brought a report to the 1946 Conference. The first part of that report, dealing with the General Brotherhood Board, was adopted by the Conference and the General Brotherhood Board was formed and began functioning during the ensuing year. However, in order that the full report of the Commission of Fifteen might be printed as a unit, the section adopted in 1946 appears in this volume with the remainder of the report, which was adopted in 1947. See the 1947 minutes, under "Brotherhood Organization."

Brotherhood Theme and Slogan

The Council of Boards presents as a theme for the year beginning September 1, 1946, CHRIST THE HOPE OF THE WORLD — "I am come that they might have life." This theme is an expression of the faith and conviction of the church.

The Council of Boards, also, presents the slogan, MEN AND MILLIONS FOR CHRIST, for the year ending February 28, 1947. This slogan is a continuation of the spirit expressed in last year's slogan, A MILLION FOR CHRIST. It is a call for the giving of life and money in keeping with our faith and the needs of our day. It is suggested that Conference take action regarding the theme and the slogan and commend them to the churches for consideration and use.

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: The theme and the slogan were adopted and they are commended to churches for consideration and use.

Call to Repentance

The elders of Southern Ohio, in session April 24, 1946, petition Annual Conference through the district conference of Southern Ohio (held in the Donnels Creek church, April 25, 1946) to call the entire membership of the church (1) to a spirit of penitence for its share, direct or indirect, in the sin of the recent world war, (2) to a broader and more intense evangelism, and (3) to a renewed and revitalized program of peace teaching in the church.

J. H. Good, Secretary

Answer of district meeting: Approved and passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Voted: (1) that we approve the suggestions of this paper; (2) that we urge all the agencies of the church to find ways to promote these aims; (3) that the local churches be urged to find ways to bring this to the attention of the membership of the church; (4) that this be made a matter of study and prayer at this Conference and a time be set aside for the purpose.

Church Membership

Queries, 1944

TEACHING FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Recognizing the decline in the traditional study of the Bible in the home, and recognizing the inability of the church school to teach religion adequately, and recognizing the tremendous loss to the church among adolescents, often even after baptism, we, the Hermosa Beach Church of the Brethren, respectfully request the Annual Conference through the District of Southern California and Arizona to study carefully this problem, and, if desirable, to prepare a compendium of Christian truth to serve as a minimum basis of religious knowledge consistent with membership in the Church of the Brethren.

Clinton Bowman, Clerk Pro Tem

Answer of district meeting: Passed to Annual Conference.

INACTIVE AND NONRESIDENT MEMBERSHIP

The problem of church membership is of growing concern to us all. We have a growing number of nonresident and inactive members, resulting in a heavy loss of members to the church. Therefore, we, the board of administration of the Eastern District of Virginia, petition Annual Conference through district conference of Eastern Virginia to appoint a committee of five to study this matter. This study would include the following:

1. Requirements for membership.
   a. Candidates for membership.
   b. Active members.
2. Indoctrination before and after baptism to meet these needs and requirements.
3. Reviving and restoring inactive and lukewarm members, disciplining those who will not meet the requirements for membership.
4. Nonresident membership.
   a. How to direct those who must leave our church communities and go into communities where we have a church.
   b. How to minister to our members in non-Brethren communities.
5. Any other problem related to the whole question of church membership.

A. J. Caricofe, Secretary

Answer of district conference: Passed to Annual Conference.

Answers of 1944 Annual Conference: Referred to a committee for study and report next year. Committee: executive secretary of the Board of Christian Education, secretary of the General Ministerial Board, president of the Pastors' Association, and a representative of he National B.Y.P.D. Cabinet approved by the first three.

Report of the Committee, 1945

The committee has had three meetings and has worked diligently. The staff of the Board of Christian Education was invited to meet with he committee for part of one session. The new graded lessons for uniors have some material related to the problem. The material produced by Brethren has been carefully canvassed. In addition, publications from other denominations have been reviewed. While progress has been made, further study is needed. The committee asks he Conference to grant it the privilege to continue its study and make a final report at the 1946 Conference.

Raymond R. Peters
H. L. Hartsough
T. F. Henry
D. Eugene Lichty

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Request granted and committee continued.

Report of the Committee, 1946

The committee has studied the problems listed in these queries and brings the following findings and recommendations.

TRAINING FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

In addition to present curriculum material the following new literature is proposed for use in training for church membership.

Brethren Junior Graded Lessons. Course VI, Part 1 (ready for use in October 1946) includes five sessions on the history of the Church of the Brethren. Course VI, Part 2 includes seven sessions on our church, what it means to be a church member and a study of church practices.

This junior material for both teachers and pupils is to be reprinted in a special unit for use by churches not using the Brethren graded lessons in the Sunday morning class period, in Sunday evening sessions, in vacation Bible schools, in pastors' classes on church membership, or in other ways determined by the local church.

New Brethren Graded Lessons for Intermediates. Part 2 of the first-year course (ready for use in October 1946) contains a unit of seven sessions on the topic, Being a Member of the Church, committed to Christian ideals. We recommend the use of this unit with intermediates in a manner similar to that suggested for the junior graded materials.

The Meaning of Church Membership for Brethren. The committee recommends the publication of a course of study under this title to be used by the minister in conducting classes on church membership. This manual is to include general suggestions and content material for the minister. A tentative outline for this manual has been prepared by the committee. We recommend that the production of this material be referred to the Board of Christian Education.

Each year there appear, in the program materials for youth and adults, units dealing specifically with the meaning of church membership. The committee recommends that the local church avail itself of this material. See yearly *Local Church Program Guide* for outlines and catalogs.

The committee recommends that classes on church membership be conducted by the pastor or qualified instructor during the Sunday-school period or other time determined by the local church. We believe more effective teaching both before and after baptism will be helpful. Study reveals a lowering in age at which people are coming into the church. Graded curriculum material is scheduled for eleven- and twelve-year-olds and special attention should be given to those coming into the church earlier than this age.

The values of both public and private commitments on the part of candidates for church membership are recognized. We further believe that it would be helpful to review at least annually in the presence of the congregation the requirements for church membership.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The committee suggests that those who express faith in Christ as Savior and who show a knowledge of the facts and principles set forth in the above sources, and who pledge loyalty to these ideals and principles, may be regarded as meeting the minimum requirements for church membership.

The committee believes that the following minute from Annual Conference of 1931 provides an adequate statement on requirements for active church membership:

"An active member is one who avails himself of the public means of grace by attending some regular church service, or a communion service, or contributes to the support of the gospel and the various enterprises in such ways as he is able. . . ."

INACTIVE MEMBERS

The 1931 Annual Conference defined an inactive member as follows:

" . . . Any member who without sufficient reason shall fail to comply with the requirements for active membership for two consecutive years, after earnest but ineffectual effort by the church to arouse the member to the observance of his vows, may, by action of the church or the membership committee be recorded in a separate list as inactive, until such time as he shall again become active."

In dealing with inactive members we wish to refer to the following minute from the Annual Conference of 1942:

"This board ('Supervising Ministry' or the 'Official Board' of the congregation) may . . . periodically review the membership roll, and, when cases of inactive or delinquent members are discovered, shall institute measures to bring about restoration, or, if failing, submit such cases to the congregation for action.

"Cases of a very serious nature, which might destroy the peace and unity of the congregation, should be referred to the elders of the district. The local board should present the facts to the elders in session. The elders may hear the case and render a decision or they may appoint a committee with power to act. The decision, in either case, should be submitted to the congregation for ratification. The congregation, however, may waive all its own authority, and commit the matter to the elders for settlement. In such cases the decision would not need ratification by the congregation."

NONRESIDENT MEMBERS

The committee believes that spiritual life is enhanced by holding the letter of membership in the congregation in which the member resides and recommends that people who change their permanent residence request their letters of membership and place them in the church in which they regularly worship. See Annual Conference minutes of 1925 [page 25 of *Minutes of the Annual Conferences, 1923-1944*].

We recommend that when members move into non-Brethren communities they participate in some church in that community though they may retain their membership in the home church. We recommend that the pastor keep in touch with nonresident members through personal letters and any other means of publicity or communication used in his church. The Ministry to Nonresidents sponsored by the General Boards is to be regarded as a supplement to the work of the pastor.

The committee recommends that the total church program be undergirded with the spirit of evangelism and that in addition there be a special yearly emphasis. As a part of this emphasis we recommend a well-planned friendly visitation in which the whole church constituency and prospective members are contacted in the name of the church. The inactive list should be regarded as a fertile field for evangelistic effort. Church visitors should be given guidance on procedure. Subsequent visits should be made by Sunday-school teachers and others who are especially qualified to meet definite needs revealed in the preliminary visits. The church with a concern for the lost will use every means possible to reach them and to build them into the Christian fellowship.

Raymond R. Peters
H. L. Hartsough
T. F. Henry
D. Eugene Lichty

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Report adopted with its recommendations.

Conference Trustees

Recommendation, 1944

Standing Committee recommends that Annual Conference ask the Conference trustees to bring a report next year stating their responsibilities, activities, and legal status.

Answer of 1944 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Report of the Committee, 1945

Your committee reports progress and asks the privilege of another year's study to complete their report.

Calvert N. Ellis, Secretary

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Committee continued.

Report of the Committee, 1946

The 1944 Annual Conference at Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, recommended that the Conference trustees bring a report the next year stating their responsibilities, activities, and legal status. The Conference trustees beg to report that they have discovered very little information about their responsibilities.

The Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren is incorporated in the state of Wisconsin for the purpose of holding property for the brotherhood. The trustees have been called upon for no service during the past year.

In view of the fact that the various corporations of the brotherhood are being studied by the Committee of Fifteen, the Conference trustees recommend that this corporation of the Annual Conference be studied by this committee.

Calvert N. Ellis, Secretary

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Referred to the Commission of Fifteen as recommended.

NOTE: The minutes of the 1947 Conference, under "Brotherhood Organization," the section on the General Brotherhood Board, 4-e-(4), show the final disposition of this matter.

Co-operation in Organizing New Churches

The Bridgewater church requests Annual Conference of 1946, through the district conference of the Second District of Virginia, to accept as a matter of general church policy the principle of interchurch co-operation in organizing new congregations and in the continued support of weak and competing churches. We request that the General Ministerial Board be authorized to represent the Church of the Brethren in conjunction with district and local church boards and officials, in areas where inter-Protestant comity would result in a better and stronger religious ministry to the local community.

G. Elmer Myers, Clerk

Action of district conference: Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: We grant the request of the paper and advise the officers, boards, and committees of the church which have responsibility in organizing new churches and in supporting mission churches already organized, to follow the policy of interchurch consultation and to co-operate fully with other Christian bodies where interdenominational action based on comity agreement would result in a more adequate Christian service to the community.

Directives on Civilian Public Service

The Council of Boards approved the Brethren Service Committee asking Annual Conference through Standing Committee for directives on Civilian Public Service.

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Request granted and the following directives were adopted.

The Annual Conference of 1941 approved the principle of "alternative service" as opposed to military service and appointed the Brethren Service Committee as the agency of the church for the administration of civilian public service and for representation of the church in relation to the government of the United States. The Brethren have had under their administration about three thousand men and have expended approximately $1,250,000 in this program during the period from March 1942 to March 1946. The men in our jurisdiction have contributed without pay two million five hundred thousand man days to those enterprises adjudged as of national importance. Expressed in terms of cash this would represent a gift to the government of about $10,000,000. The United States government has collected from the labor of civilian public service men about $3,000,000, of which approximately one third may be regarded as the Brethren's share in the accumulated fund. These funds are now frozen in the United States Treasury awaiting distribution under authorization of Congress. The civilian public service movement, in spite of its disappointments and inadequacies, has been an impressive protest against war and has offered a constructive service related to soil conservation, to the development and protection of national and state forests, to the maintenance of public parks and public highways, to the administration of public health and sanitation, to the development of the dairy industry of the country, to the administration of institutions for the mentally ill, to the control and treatment of communicable diseases, to the experimentation with starvation and its nutritive treatment, to the collection, processing, and distribution of clothing and food to many parts of the world for relief purposes, to the care and distribution of dairy cattle and other livestock to depleted and devastated areas of Europe, and to other enterprises of a humanitarian character. These enterprises have had the endorsement of our own government and have met with the general approval of the world as a ministry of vast significance for international goodwill.

The Church of the Brethren sought to advance the following objectives through the civilian public service movement:

1. To demonstrate and extend the spirit of brotherhood and justice as a way of life which leads to world-mindedness and to international peace and security.

2. To offer a medium for the preservation and continued expression of the peace testimony of our own and other Christian bodies and to provide a witness against war and violence as instruments of national policy.

3. To assist our government in developing appropriate measures by which religious minorities which conscientiously reject military service may bear witness in times of war in a manner consistent with the principles of religious liberty and the priority of fundamental individual rights which a democratic government must guarantee.

Now that active fighting is over and our government must devote itself to the aftermath of bitterness and suffering and to the task of rehabilitation, we desire, in the spirit of Christ, to apply our resources in the fullest possible measure to the alleviation of human want and distress. We therefore resolve:

1. To request our government to demobilize civilian public service units as rapidly as possible in order that our resources may be more fully devoted to relief and reconstruction. We cannot now determine a date of withdrawal from civilian public service administration, but we register our unwillingness to continue it indefinitely.

2. To ask the President of the United States to grant amnesty and the restoration of civil rights to all conscientious objectors who have been imprisoned, and to classify as "work of national importance" those measures of relief and humanitarian service upon which we may mutually agree as important and urgent, and to release all qualified civilian public service men not now eligible for discharge to detached service on a basis such as has been done for cattle shipments under UNRRA and the Brethren Service Committee.

3. To labor to the full measure of our ability against the extension of the selective service act and to put the full weight of the church against any form of peacetime conscription for military purposes. In case of continued conscription we urge our government to accept alternative service projects for our young men, under church control and on a purely voluntary basis.

4. To authorize and instruct the Brethren Service Committee to continue to represent the church in our relation to the government and to selective service so long as our young men are subject to call or retention under the selective service act. In case Congress should enact a peacetime conscription bill, we are unwilling to administer any type of alternative service unless it be free from government dominance. This Conference appoints the Council of Boards as its representative to give advice and counsel on this matter to the Brethren Service Committee.

5. To reaffirm our position that Christian citizenship implies full support of the state only insofar as it represents good government and the righteous will of God. We realize that the total rejection of government on the one hand means anarchy and that the unquestioned acceptance of the authority of the state on the other hand means tyranny and totalitarianism. The Christian citizen must take his position somewhere between these two extremes. The Brethren accept the will of God as the supreme authority for the individual and deny to the state he right to violate personality or restrain religious faith and practice. They concede to the state the right to demand from its citizens financial support for the legitimate functions of government and to require obedience to laws which operate for the common welfare. But a society ounded on the principle of democracy must guarantee freedom of faith and worship to the individual even in times of war and political crises. Where government is good, we support it gladly. Where it is bad, we trive to make it good by the processes of Christian democracy. We

recognize disobedience to law as a matter of last resort in the strain between the freedom of conscience and the authority of the state.

The church as a champion of the doctrines of the worth of the individual, of the inherent rights of man, and of the supreme authority of the divine will must seek to preserve those freedoms which are essential to the good life and to the highest development of human personality. We are, therefore, compelled to deny to the state the right of absolute authority over the individual and to extend a ministry of material aid and spiritual succor to those whose personal rights are violated.

The Brethren are committed to the position of world peace through brotherhood and justice. We live in "one world" and are under obligation to give our loyalty to the people of the world in sympathy, co-operation, and allegiance even beyond national sovereignty.

Licensing and Ordaining Ministers

The General Ministerial Board recommends to Annual Conference through Standing Committee that Annual Meeting minutes, 1922, be amended to read as in the paragraph following the quoted minute.

"Brethren who are called by the church to preach should be licensed by the church to preach, but not to perform the other functions of the ministry, until such time as the church and the district ministerial board shall decide to ordain them into the ministry. If they have not been ordained within a year, the license may be renewed by the church from year to year, until such brethren either accept and are ordained into the ministry, according to previous decisions, or are discontinued as licensed preachers."

When in the judgment of the church and the district ministerial board the best interest of the church can be served, these brethren may be given license to preach for an indefinite time.

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Local Representation at Annual Conference

Whereas, the basis for representation of the local churches to Annual Conference was established in the year 1882, while many of our congregations have greatly increased in the size of their membership since that time;

And, whereas the present basis for representation, which provides one delegate for congregations with less than two hundred members, and two delegates for congregations with a membership of more than two hundred, does not give an equal or truly democratic representation of the local churches to Annual Conference,

We, the board of administration of the Middle District of Maryland, respectfully petition the Annual Conference, through district meeting of

Middle Maryland, to constitute a committee to study the matter of representation of the local congregations to Annual Conference, and bring recommendations for the revision of the minutes of 1882 to Annual Conference next year.

Answer of district meeting: Passed to Annual Meeting.

Ora DeLauter, Secretary

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Referred to the Commission of Fifteen.

NOTE: See the minutes of the 1947 Annual Conference, under "Brotherhood Organization," II-A-3 in the section entitled "Annual Conference."

Mutual Aid Society

Query, 1945

Since we are Brethren who have always believed in helping each other; and since Brethren genius fits best in rural areas from which many of our young people are attracted to large cities and lost to the church; and, whereas several thousand of our young men must shortly be rehabilitated in normal life; and whereas many of our older members have surplus funds which they would gladly loan at low rates of interest on safe investment to help young Brethren couples get started in life:

We, the Rock Run church, assembled in quarterly council, July 6, 1944, petition Annual Conference, through district conference of Northern Indiana, to establish some kind of mutual aid society to provide financial assistance and moral encouragement toward the establishment of our young married couples on the land or in some other productive rural enterprise near our rural churches.

M. G. Whitehead, Clerk

Answer of district meeting: Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Referred to the Church Investment Council for study and report next year.

Report of the Church Investment Council, 1946

We commend all brethren who in the fellowship of the brotherhood for the upbuilding of the church and the assistance of their brethren have without formal organization made their financial resources available. Homes have been established and congregations built up through the mutual financial assistance of brethren. We encourage all brethren to build the fellowship through a concern for the economic progress of their fellow members.

We recognize places in which formal organization has been and can be useful and commend the Rock Run congregation of the District of Northern Indiana for the steps which they have taken. We commend o other congregations the study of their plan.

On the district level we would commend organizations such as the Common Bond Credit Union of the Southern District of Ohio.

The Central Region has a committee studying this question and encouraging the organization of mutual aid at the local level after careful investigation has shown a definite need.

No formal organization should presume to replace the informal and personal relations among brethren—a responsibility which we cannot shirk.

We would call attention to the inflationary forces in our economic life which present difficulties in the way of those who wish to establish a business in either urban or rural areas.

Edwin Grossnickle

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Pastoral Support

Query, 1945

We, the Weiser church, petition Annual Conference, through district conference of Idaho and Western Montana, to make a study of pastoral distribution and pastoral support and to propose methods whereby pastoral salaries can be more equalized.

Alvin Hoover, Clerk

Answer of district meeting: Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Referred to the General Ministerial Board.

Report of the Ministerial Board, 1946

The distribution and support of pastors. At the present time we do not have enough strong, capable pastors to supply the demands of our churches. This condition will continue for some time. At the same time the churches find it necessary to demand higher standards of the men they call to the pastorates. Therefore, in order to get a fair and equitable distribution of our pastoral strength, we recommend the following:

1. That our churches put the brotherhood and the cause of Christ first and their local churches second in their thinking.

2. That churches do all within their power to make the parish a challenging, fertile field for pastoral service.

3. That churches do all they can from a physical and ethical standpoint to make their churches attractive and desirable to worthy pastors.

4. That pastors accept calls on the basis of the opportunity offered for service rather than the advantage it offers for professional advancement.

5. That regional and district officials, after a thorough and impartial study of their fields, recommend the strongest men available to the most

strategic fields regardless of the size of the church; and that no financial or professional discrimination be made.

6. That in the present time we consider $1,800 and a place to live as a minimum salary for full-time pastors.

7. That churches served by part-time pastors allow them time and help them find opportunity to earn enough to bring their salaries up to the minimum. Careful arrangements should be made in this matter to avoid misunderstanding.

General Ministerial Board

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Peacetime Conscription and Military Training

The Oregon district meeting on January 19, 1946, decided that the conference would send its expression of disapproval to the President and Congress on peacetime conscription and military training; it was also decided to recommend that Annual Conference do the same.

Forrest U. Groff, Clerk

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: The Conference adopted the following statement prepared by the Resolutions Committee and urged the members to send similar messages to the President and to their congressmen.

The Church of the Brethren, assembled June 15, 1946, at Wenatchee, Washington, in its General Conference, its first General Conference since the close of the war, desires to express to the President and the Congress of the United States its appreciation for every effort of our government to create goodwill among the nations. The present program of feeding the hungry in other lands we believe to be an effective measure in achieving this goal. In this program of relief our church through its Brethren Service Committee is much interested.

In order further to bring peace and goodwill among the nations and in harmony with our understanding of the spirit and teaching of Jesus Christ, we would urge our government—

1. To allow the Selective Service and Training Act of 1940 to expire on July 1, 1946.

2. To abandon any proposed system of peacetime military conscription and training.

3. To abandon the proposed atomic bomb tests.

4. To seek through the United Nations organization the progressive universal reduction of armaments.

5. To grant amnesty and the restoration of civil rights to the conscientious objectors who have been imprisoned.

We pray that the President and the Congress may be guided by divine wisdom in directing the affairs of the state.

Publication of a New Brethren Hymnal

Whereas:

1. The normal life of a hymnal is twenty-five years and our present hymnal was published in 1925;

2. Other hymns, old and new, as well as other gospel songs are needed by our brotherhood and are available;

3. There is need for more adequate Christian motivation for the expanding program of the church in such areas as evangelism, missions, world service, emphasis on rural life, and the Christian education of children, youth and adults;

4. The average length of time consumed in the preparation and printing of a new hymnal is around five years;

We, the Board of Christian Education, assembled at Elgin, Illinois, March 7, 1945, recommend that Annual Conference authorize and arrange for the publication of a new Brethren hymnal by approximately June 1, 1950.

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Recommendation adopted. Referred to the Board of Christian Education.

Report of the Board of Christian Education, 1946

The Board of Christian Education has taken this assignment under advisement, made a preliminary study of costs and procedures in hymnal building and agreed on the following:

1. That an executive hymnal committee and four functional committees to work in the following areas—doctrine, literary, music, and worship—be appointed to work on the production of manuscript. These functional committees are to report to the Board of Christian Education through the executive hymnal committee. The board is not ready to submit nominations for personnel of these committees for approval by Annual Conference.

2. That the board move on the assumption that the Annual Conference treasurer provide the funds needed for the work of the board in preparing manuscript for the hymnal up to the point where the content has been determined. The manuscript would then be turned over to the Brethren Publishing House for publication.

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: The plan of the Board of Christian Education to prepare the hymnal for publication was approved.

On the second item, however, it was decided that the expense involved in preparing manuscript for the hymnal, up to the point where the content has been determined, be provided in the Conference budget as a supplemental item granted to the Board of Christian Education. The amounts approved were $1,500 for the present fiscal year, and $2,500 for the year ending February 29, 1948. [See the item of business entitled "Revised Budget for the Christian Education Commission."]

Reincorporation of the Brethren Publishing House

Whereas, it is desirable that a corporation be organized under the General Not-for-Profit Corporation Act of the State of Illinois, for the purpose, in substance, of promoting, aiding, and contributing to the advancement of Christian religious instruction and education in Sunday schools, churches, missions, and otherwise, by research and the developing and outlining of lesson helps, plans, and programs, the editing, publishing and distribution of religious literature and materials, financial support, and other means from time to time deemed appropriate, and to apply the principal of any fund or funds, as well as the net income therefrom, exclusively to such religious and educational purposes, including missionary purposes at home and in foreign lands, the voting control of which corporation will be vested in a Class A Membership to be held by the General Mission Board of the Church of the Brethren;

And whereas, it is desirable that when such corporation is organized, that all of the assets and properties of the Brethren Publishing House be transferred to such new corporation, and the present Brethren Publishing House corporation dissolved;

And whereas, the General Mission Board of the Church of the Brethren and the Brethren Publishing House have requested permission to cause such new corporation to be organized and to cause such assets to be so transferred;

Therefore, be it resolved that such permission be granted, and that the officers of the said General Mission Board of the Church of the Brethren and of the said Brethren Publishing House be authorized to do and perform all things necessary in connection therewith.

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Resolution adopted.

Revised Budget for Bethany Biblical Seminary

The Council of Boards recommends to Annual Conference through Standing Committee that the asking for Bethany Biblical Seminary for the year ending February 29, 1948, be increased from $35,000 to $40,000 as a part of the brotherhood budget.

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Revised Budget for the Brethren Service Committee

The Council of Boards presents to Annual Conference through Standing Committee the recommendation of the Brethren Service Committee for revision of the budget for the year ending February 28, 1947, to allow the Brethren Service Committee a minimum budget of $500,000 instead of $420,000; and further, that a minimum budget of $500,000 is recommended for the Brethren Service Committee for the year ending February 29, 1948.

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Revised Budget for the Christian Education Commission

The budget for the year ending February 28, 1947, was revised to include the item, Board of Christian Education (Hymnal Fund), $1,500.

Special Sunday-school Lessons

Query, 1945

The board of Christian education asks district meeting of the Second District of West Virginia to pass the following to Annual Conference: That five lessons be omitted from the Uniform Sunday-school lessons in the Brethren quarterlies each year, and lessons on the following subjects be inserted — prayer covering, baptism, feet-washing, love feast, and the simple life.

Answer of district meeting: Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: That the Board of Christian Education be authorized and empowered by Annual Conference to initiate and carry forward a comprehensive study of educational objectives and goals for the Church of the Brethren, and that in the light of the conclusions which may result from such a study the Board of Christian Education shall be authorized to bring to Annual Conference specific plans and procedures for the development, for use with all age groups and in all of the educational agencies of the church, of such comprehensive curriculum and program as may be regarded as necessary and adequate to enable the church more adequately to attain her objectives and goals.

Report of the Board of Christian Education, 1946

The Board of Christian Education presents the following answer to Annual Conference through Standing Committee to the query referred by the 1945 Annual Conference to the Board of Christian Education concerning distinctly Brethren emphases in the Sunday-school lesson materials:

(1) The Board of Christian Education prepare an undated series of Sunday-school lessons dealing with Brethren history, distinctive doctrines, and ideals.

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Item number one was accepted as fulfilling the assignment of 1945. The remainder of the report [not printed here] was respectfully returned.

Supplemental Pension Fund

Raising of the Supplemental Pension Fund

The Council of Boards presents to Annual Conference through Standing Committee the recommendation of the Pension Board that the efforts of the church be directed to raising the Supplemental Pension

Fund by April 1, 1947, and that the Pension Board secure the necessary promotional assistance.

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Request granted as revised in the following item.

GOAL FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL PENSION FUND

The Council of Boards recommends to Annual Conference through Standing Committee that the Supplemental Pension Fund minimum goal be increased from $100,000 to $125,000 and that the goal be reached by February 28, 1947, as recommended by the Pension Board, and that the Pension Board secure the necessary promotional assistance.

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Temporary Representative to the World Council of Churches

The La Verne Conference of 1941 authorized our participation in the World Council of Churches. Since that council is now taking more definite form and is beginning to function in areas of human service which fall within the scope of our own service program such as war prisoner relief, material aid to distressed peoples, and reconstruction, the Council of Boards, therefore, recommends that the Annual Conference of 1946 through Standing Committee name a temporary representative to the World Council of Churches for the purpose of participation in the organization movement and for keeping the church advised of its progress and for better interpreting the implications and responsibilities of membership in the council.

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Request granted. M. R. Zigler appointed.

Transfer of Peace Education

The Council of Boards requests Annual Conference through Standing Committee to approve the recommendation of the Board of Christian Education and the Brethren Service Committee that the Brethren Service Committee be administratively responsible for peace education and action, with functional co-operation with the Board of Christian Education in providing printed page peace curricular materials for local churches with the details on curriculum to be worked out jointly by the Board of Christian Education and the Brethren Service Committee.

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Request granted.

1947, Orlando, Florida

Advance With Christ — a Call to Action

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference through Standing Committee the following call to action.

ADVANCE WITH CHRIST

I. A CALL TO ACTION

A. A Distraught World Desperately in Need of Christ

The conditions of our time present to the church a challenging urgency to unusual action. From every quarter come calls for an aggressive program based on the evangelical doctrines of Christ. Atomic scientists have appealed to the church to help save the world from self-destruction. Judges and law enforcement officers are urging churchmen to give more effective Christian instruction for youth. Social scientists point to evidences of the disintegration of our Western culture. The international scene shows signs of growing tensions which the church can alleviate. There are poverty, hunger, and urgent need in many parts of the world. It is of the utmost importance that the church be alerted and moved to immediate and accelerated action.

We need to catch something of the compelling sense of urgency that Christ felt when he said, "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh the harvest? . . . Lift up your eyes and look on the fields that they are white already unto harvest," and, again, "I must work while it is day for the night cometh in which no man can work." Paul felt this same inner compulsion, saying, "Woe is me, if I preach not the gospel," and "I am become all things to all men that I might by all means save some" for "the love of Christ constraineth me."

The United Stewardship Council in an overture to Protestant bodies says the time is ripe for all communions to express their Christian stewardship to an extent far in excess of our present practices. Many Protestant bodies have already launched programs of advance and some have even achieved many of their advanced goals. They are going forward under such slogans as Crusade for Christ, World Mission Crusade, The United Advance, and Crusade for a Christian World.

B. The Church Must See and Act

Members of the Church of the Brethren have seen at least dimly the necessity of transforming our faith into more aggressive action. Certain aspects of our program have already moved forward in an amazing way. The time seems now here for the church to swing into aggressive action on all fronts. The General Brotherhood Board through its commissions is attempting to take measure of its tasks and to formulate programs in keeping with the urgency of the need.

But if there is to be real advance it must take place at every level of our church life from the local congregation to the General Brotherhood Board. While not all spiritual progress can be measured, in those areas where measurement is possible goals need to be set up so that progress can be measured statistically. They should include such matters as baptisms, church attendance, service projects, missionary and service recruits and the giving of money. Such a movement can succeed only as the membership of the church understands and appreciates its significance and is awakened to individual endeavor.

II. AN ADVANCE PROGRAM

The General Brotherhood Board therefore recommends to the Conference through Standing Committee that:

A. We endorse an Advance movement for the church year 1947-48 which shall begin immediately and be appraised at the time of the 1948 Annual Conference.

B. The movement be called the Advance movement and that we adopt the slogan ADVANCE WITH CHRIST.

C. We encourage all the agencies of the church to press forward with their programs with as much vigor as possible.

D. We encourage the commissions of the board and other church agencies to continue their effort to develop clearly defined goals and in the light of such goals to set up carefully planned programs of advance in their respective fields so that next year the Annual Conference may lift up one or more of these areas for special emphasis if it seems desirable.

E. For the year 1947-48 we recognize for special emphasis the following causes:

1. Home missions, including evangelism and church extension. (This cause perhaps should be considered as having first priority because of its crucial importance.)
2. A new and more vigorous emphasis on peace education.
3. Action on the alcohol problem.

III. SPECIAL GOALS FOR 1947-48

Three papers came to the General Brotherhood Board with carefully outlined plans for action in the above-mentioned fields. Those detailed plans cannot be given here, but they contain among other things the following suggestions:

A. Home Missions and Evangelism

1. To increase the practice of daily devotions in the homes of our church and to instruct and enlist our people in the spiritual disciplines of prayer which are necessary to undergird any Christian program of Advance.
2. To reclaim ten thousand of our inactive members.
3. To win fifteen thousand new members to Christ and the church.

4. To establish twenty new churches next year.

5. To add forty efficient new full-time pastors to our working force.

6. To reach every nonresident member of the church.

7. To secure the co-operation of every member in the program of the church.

8. To undergird our home and family life.

9. To preserve a continued and expanding dedication of financial resources to the service of the church.

B. Peace Education and Promotion

Because of the urgency of the cause of peace and the danger of continuing wars, we propose that this interest shall be lifted up in our churches this year. It is proposed that:

1. We attempt in every way possible to ground our people in the New Testament doctrine of peace.

2. Curriculum materials be provided for use in our church schools to present this cause more effectively.

3. Ministry of service and relief as a means to peace be continued and enlarged if possible.

4. We encourage our schools and colleges to promote peace education.

5. We co-operate with our peace secretaries and others in promotion of this cause.

C. Action on the Alcohol Problem

Because of the increasing use of alcohol and its inroads upon the life of youth, in keeping with our church heritage it is proposed that we:

1. Enroll parents and other adults in a study group on alcohol education.

2. Stress alcohol education in our Sunday school and the activities of the B.Y.P.D.

3. Have more sermons on the alcohol problem.

4. Actively promote campaigns to prohibit the legal manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages within local political units in which we have local churches.

IV. Faith Turned Into Action

In order that this Advance program be properly implemented, so that it may result in prompt and effective action, we recommend the following:

A. That each church in the brotherhood be requested to hold a special council meeting, within one month if possible, to consider what steps it can take towards an advance especially in these suggested areas but also in any other areas of church life which seem necessary.

B. That district conferences either in their regular or in special conferences consider their responsibility for the Advance movement and take steps to realize it.

C. That district mission boards or boards of administration meet before August 1, 1947, to consider the problem of church extension for their districts.

D. That the agency to whom the cause of temperance is committed in each church meet and develop plans for action on the alcohol problem, at its earliest convenience.

E. That the staff and field organization of the church be utilized wherever possible in promoting and executing this program.

F. That since no program of advance is possible without increased personal effort and devotion, and increased cost in money, we would urge:

1. The importance of personal consecration and devotion to the church as "unto the Lord."

2. A full consecration of our material wealth to the cause of Christ. In fulfillment of this we propose—

a. That each member rethink his personal stewardship and give adequately to meet the needs of the church program.

b. That each congregation survey its resources, educate and seek for proportionate giving, setting goals which lift the vision of the members.

c. That each congregation consider improved methods of enlisting the active support of all members.

d. That pastors and church leaders co-operate wholeheartedly in the efforts of those whose responsibility it is to undergird the program with financial support.

We earnestly pray that God may give wisdom and leadership to his church, and that his grace and blessing may rest upon our efforts to set forward the work of his Kingdom.

Answer of 1947 Annual Conference: Request granted and the call to action adopted as revised.

Amendments to the Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan

The Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan adopted by the church at the McPherson Conference provided that the plan could be amended by the Conference. It was further provided that if the executive committee of the Council of Boards felt that an amendment should be adopted before the next Conference, the amendment could be adopted ad interim by the executive committee of the Council of Boards on recommendation of the Pension Board, and such amendment should then be presented to the next Conference for ratification.

Amendments necessary to put the pension plan in line with the new organizational set-up of the church were prepared by an attorney, and were adopted at the November meeting of the Pension Board. The executive committee of the Council of Boards then adopted the amendments, ad interim.

The amendments so adopted are here presented to the Annual Conference for ratification, per the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO THE PENSION PLAN

WHEREAS, a pension plan for ministers, missionaries and others was set up and adopted by the Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren at the McPherson Annual Conference in 1943, the details and terms of which are as set forth in the minutes of such Annual Conference.

AND WHEREAS, in the plan as so adopted it was provided that such pension plan should be administered by a Pension Board consisting of the General Mission Board of the Church of the Brethren and the General Ministerial Board of the Church of the Brethren.

AND WHEREAS, the said General Mission Board of the Church of the Brethren, by amendment of its charter and change of name, has become and is the General Brotherhood Board — Church of the Brethren, and said General Ministerial Board of the Church of the Brethren has been merged into said General Brotherhood Board — Church of the Brethren.

AND WHEREAS, it is desirable that the said pension plan be known and referred to as the Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan of the Church of the Brethren; that the operation and administration of said pension plan be vested in a board of trustees to be known and referred to as the trustees of the Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan of the Church of the Brethren; that the members, from time to time, of such board of trustees be the individuals who are then serving as the members of said General Brotherhood Board — Church of the Brethren; and that such pension plan as so adopted at said 1943 Annual Conference be amended, as hereinafter set forth.

AND WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Pension Board, the executive committee of the Council of Boards has duly adopted ad interim the amendments to such pension plan as hereinafter set forth, and such amendments should now be ratified and approved.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the 1947 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren that the amendments to the said pension plan as hereinafter set forth, and as adopted ad interim by the executive committee of the Council of Boards, be, and the same are hereby, ratified and approved, and that the said pension plan be, and the same is hereby, amended as hereinafter set forth, that is to say:

(1) That sub-paragraph (b) of Article I be amended to read as follows: (b) The term *Pension Board* shall mean the trustees of the Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan of the Church of the Brethren.

(2) That sub-paragraph (c) of Article I be amended to read as follows: (c) The term *Pension Plan* shall mean the pension plan as adopted at the 1943 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren, as amended, and which "pension plan" shall be known and referred to as the Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan of the Church of the Brethren.

(3) That Article XIII be amended in its entirety to read as follows:

ARTICLE XIII. OPERATION OF THE PLAN

Section A — Administration

(a) The pension plan shall be operated and administered by the Pension Board (namely the trustees of the Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan of the Church of the Brethren), in accordance with the plan as adopted at the 1943 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren, as subsequently amended, and in accordance with such rules and regulations in harmony therewith as said Pension Board may from time to time adopt. The Pension Board's construction and interpretation of any provision of the plan or of such rules and regulations shall be binding on all parties.

(b) The members of the Pension Board (namely the trustees of the Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan of the Church of the Brethren), from time to time, shall consist of, and shall be, the twenty-five (25) individuals who are from time to time designated and appointed by the Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren as members of the General Brotherhood Board — Church of the Brethren, and who at the time are serving as such members of the General Brotherhood Board — Church of the Brethren, including the then-acting moderator of Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren if he is not one of said twenty-five (25) individuals so then designated, appointed, and serving.

(c) Upon the adoption of this amendment, the operation and administration of the pension plan, as well as all funds and property in connection therewith, subject to the liabilities thereof, shall be turned over to, and thereafter administered by, the trustees of the Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan of the Church of the Brethren.

(d) The Pension Board (namely the trustees of the Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan of the Church of the Brethren) may adopt, and shall be governed by, such by-laws, rules, and regulations as may be adopted by it from time to time, not inconsistent with the said plan. The trustees may delegate their powers and duties in respect to the operation and administration of the pension plan to committees, officers, and agents, selected from within or without the membership of the board of trustees. The action or decision of any such committee, officer, or agent, within the scope of the powers or duties so delegated, shall be deemed to be the action or decision of the trustees, but shall be subject to review by the trustees in disputed cases. The decision of the trustees upon such review shall be final.

(e) As of August 31, 1948, and at the end of each five (5) year period thereafter, the trustees may readjust annuities or other benefits being paid or to be paid where such changes are deemed to be necessary to protect and preserve the actuarial and financial solvency of the pension plan on the basis of the experience as to mortality, disability, security of the principal of the invested funds and the rate of earnings thereon.

Section B — Liability

The funds and assets of the pension plan shall be and become liable to members, annuitants, and other beneficiaries hereunder for the payment and discharge of their annuity and benefit claims in the manner and to the extent provided in the plan, but in no event shall any liability accrue, or be asserted against, any trustee or trustees individually, or against the Church of the Brethren, the Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren, or any of the boards or agencies of the Church of the Brethren (other than the funds and assets of the said pension plan) for annuities, benefits, or other claims arising out of the establishment, maintenance, conduct, and operation of the pension plan, nor shall any of the funds or assets of the Church of the Brethren, or of any of its boards or agencies (other than the funds and assets of the said pension plan) become subject to or liable for, any such claim or other liability. No action at law or inequity shall ever accrue or be maintained in any court against any trustee or trustees individually, or against the Church of the Brethren, the Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren, or any of the boards or agencies of the Church of the Brethren (other than the funds and assets of said pension plan) to enforce any such asserted claim or liability.

Section C — Investments

All funds of the pension plan and the Pension Board shall be invested only upon the approval of the trustees, or their duly authorized committee or agent. The trustees may designate the General Brotherhood Board — Church of the Brethren as the custodian of the funds and assets of the pension plan and the Pension Board, and may delegate to said General Brotherhood Board — Church of the Brethren such authorities in regard thereto, and in regard to the investment thereof, as the trustees may, from time to time, deem advisable and expedient.

Section D — Construction

(a) This plan and the rules and regulations adopted hereunder and the rights of members, annuitants and beneficiaries of the pension plan, shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois.

(b) The pension plan as so adopted at the 1943 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren, as amended, together with the by-laws, rules and regulations adopted from time to time by the Pension Board not inconsistent with the said plan, shall be the instrument controlling the operation and administration of said pension plan, and outlining and defining the rights and interests of all members, annuitants and other beneficiaries thereunder.

(4) That Article XIV be amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS

This plan may be amended by the Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren; provided that such amendment shall have been proposed (a) by the Pension Board, or (b) by written petition presented at the preceding Conference and signed by at least twenty-five delegates thereof, and provided further, that the text of such amendment and the names of its sponsor or sponsors shall have been published in three issues of the official church organ at least thirty days prior to the Conference at which action thereon is taken.

Any amendment which, in the judgment of the Pension Board, should be adopted before the next Conference, may be adopted ad interim by the Pension Board, and any amendment so adopted shall be presented for ratification at the next Conference of the church after similar advance publication in the official church organ.

No amendment shall abridge or annul the rights of members in respect to their combined accumulations as of the date of the adoption of such amendment.

Answer of 1947 Annual Conference: The resolution was adopted.

NOTE: For a later amendment to Article XIII see the minutes of the 1948 Annual Conference, under "Amendment to the Pension Plan." Further amendments to the pension plan were made by the 1951 Conference; see the minutes of that Conference, the query entitled "Amendments to the Pension Plan."

Brotherhood Fund, 1948-49

The following budget for 1948-49 was recommended, totaling $1,361,000 and divided as indicated.

A.	Bethany Biblical Seminary		$ 50,000
B.	Brethren Service Commission		433,432
C.	Christian Education Commission		
	1. Department and divisions	$75,000	
	2. Appropriation to colleges	45,000	120,000
D.	Field Program		26,000
E.	Finance Commission		17,990
F.	Foreign Mission Commission		261,750
G.	General Administration, Promotion, and Visual Education		60,258
H.	Gospel Messenger Subsidy		14,070

I.	Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund	30,000
J.	Ministry and Home Mission Commission	146,000
		1,159,500
K.	Federal Council of Churches (payable from funds so designated)	1,500
		1,161,000
L.	Surplus Advance Fund	200,000*
	Total	$1,361,000

* The Annual Conference adopted the following recommendation: "The General Brotherhood Board recommends that a surplus Advance budget of $200,000 be set up to be divided equally between missions and Brethren Service with the missions share to be further divided between home and foreign missions in the same ratio as each shares in the regular budget."

Answer of 1947 Annual Conference: Budget adopted.

NOTE: This budget was revised in 1948; see the 1948 query entitled "Revision of Brotherhood Fund, 1948-49."

Brotherhood Organization

(Report of the Commission of Fifteen)

NOTE: See the minutes of the 1946 Conference, the query entitled "Brotherhood Organization," for a summary of the actions leading up to the presentation and adoption of this report. See the minutes of the 1951 Conference, the query entitled "Revision of Brotherhood Organization," for some later revisions in the organization of the brotherhood.

The General Brotherhood Board

The commission believes that, for the sake of unity, efficiency and economy in general brotherhood work, there should be one general board called the General Brotherhood Board of the Church of the Brethren.

I. Make-up of the Board

The General Brotherhood Board shall comprise twenty-five members elected by Annual Conference, three to be chosen from each region and ten at large.

The only ex-officio member with voting power on the General Brotherhood Board shall be the moderator of Annual Conference.

II. Eligibility of Board Members

Any elder, minister, or member of the laity who fulfills the qualifications herein set forth may serve on the General Brotherhood Board.

III. Qualifications of Board Members

A. Consecrated Christian living in home, church, and community.

B. Active service in local church and district.

C. Loyalty to the ideals and program of the Church of the Brethren.

D. A working knowledge and understanding of the brotherhood program.

E. Ability to exercise mature judgment in the solution of brotherhood problems.

F. Fitness to serve on the commissions of the Brotherhood Board.

IV. Organization of the Board

The General Brotherhood Board shall organize and select its chairman and vice-chairman and its executive committee from the regular board members. The chairman of the General Brotherhood Board shall not be chairman of any commission.

The General Brotherhood Board shall organize its work by appointing the following five commissions composed of five board members each: Foreign Missions, Ministry and Home Missions, Christian Education, Christian Service, and Finance. [See the 1947 query entitled "Nomenclature of Commissions."]

The commissions shall include the following interests:

A. Commission on Foreign Missions
1. Overseas extension
2. Evangelism

B. Commission on Ministry and Home Missions
1. Ministry
2. Church extension
3. Evangelism
4. Rural life
5. Architectural counsel

C. Commission on Christian Education
1. Church school
2. Age-group program (children's work, youth work, adult — men's and women's work)
3. Higher education
4. Peace and moral-welfare curricular materials
5. Publications (for church school)
6. Family life education
7. Leadership education

D. Commission on Christian Service
1. Relief
2. Christian social action
3. Peace witness through goodwill projects
4. General peace action and education program of the church

E. Commission on Finance

1. Conference budget building and promotion [see 1947 query entitled "Responsibility for Financial Promotion"]

2. Receiving and disbursing Annual Conference and authorized funds

3. Investment of brotherhood funds

4. Conference trustees

5. Supervision of pension system

The General Brotherhood Board shall elect a general secretary to give full-time service to the supervision, promotion, and unification of the general brotherhood program. The board shall choose a treasurer, an editor of the *Gospel Messenger,* a manager of the Publishing House, a secretary for each commission, a secretary of financial promotion, and any other personnel needed for its work.

V. Tenure of Office

The normal term of office shall be for five years with each board member eligible for re-election for a second term. For the first five years, however, five members at large shall be elected for one year, and five for two years. Of the regional representatives, five board members shall serve for three years, five for four years, and five for five years. A former board member is eligible for re-election one year after his retirement from the board.

VI. How the General Brotherhood Board Will Function

The General Brotherhood Board as a whole will consider the total brotherhood program, evaluate all phases of the program, and determine the general policies and budget needs in each area of its work. It will correlate and unify the work of all commissions, and assign to the commissions the responsibility for the detailed planning of the general program in their particular areas of service.

NOTE: This section of the report of the Commission of Fifteen was adopted by the 1946 Annual Conference and put into operation. See the 1946 query entitled "Brotherhood Organization."

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

I. Constitution and Function of Standing Committee

A. Term of Service

The members of Standing Committee shall be elected for a one-year term, the term of service beginning at the first Annual Conference following election and continuing until the next Annual Conference. The members of Standing Committee may be elected to serve twice in five years, but not more often, and not more than two years in succession.

B. Basis of Representation

1. State districts having under 3,000 members shall be entitled to one delegate each.

2. State districts having from 3,000 to 6,000 members shall be entitled to two delegates each.

3. State districts having 6,000 members or more shall be entitled to three delegates each.

4. The foreign districts shall be entitled to representation according to the foregoing scale.

C. Eligibility

Any elder, minister, or member of the laity who has been in the district for at least one year and who fulfills the qualifications as set forth by Annual Conference may serve the district on Standing Committee.

D. Qualifications

1. Consecrated Christian living in home, church, and community.
2. Faithful service in local church and district.
3. Loyalty to the ideals and program of the Church of the Brethren.
4. A working knowledge and understanding of the brotherhood program.
5. Ability to exercise mature judgment in the solution of brotherhood problems.
6. A working knowledge and understanding of the brotherhood.
7. Acceptance of the declaration of principles and purpose as set forth in the credentials for delegates to district and general conferences of the Church of the Brethren. At present they read as follows:

"(1) I again declare my faith in, and grateful acceptance of, Jesus Christ, 'the only begotten Son of God,' as my personal Savior; and the Bible as God's infallible Word of Truth, and the New Testament as the ultimate rule of faith and practice for men (John 1:14; 3:16, 36; 12:47-48; Luke 21:33; Acts 10:43; 2 Tim. 3:16).

"(2) It is my sincere endeavor, in submission to God's Holy Spirit, to make my life, at all times, in purpose and in act, a true expression of the teaching of Jesus and his apostles (1 Cor. 10:31-33; Rom. 12:1-2).

"(3) I pledge my loyalty, my life and influence, to the Church of the Brethren and to her doctrines and practices as taught by the Scriptures and defined by her General Conference (1 Peter 1:13-16; 3:3-4; James 5:12; Luke 3:14; 1 Cor. 6:1-8; John 18:20; 1 Peter 5:13-14; John 13; 1 Cor. 11:1-21).

"(4) As a delegate to the above-named Conference, I promise prayerfully to consider with open mind and a teachable spirit, all matters presented, and to act, by voice and vote in good faith, for the best interests of the church, that she may continue to be 'the pillar and ground of the truth' (1 Thess. 5:17; Rom. 14:22-23)."

E. Selection of Members to Standing Committee

1. In the selection of members due consideration shall be given to the choice of persons of the highest ability in the district and continuity

of service on the Standing Committee as well as proper distribution of viewpoint and personnel.

2. Their qualifications shall be read each year before the selection of Standing Committee members and shall be seriously considered as the basis of their selection.

3. The Standing Committee member shall be required to secure from the clerk of the district his proper credentials to be sent to the secretary of Standing Committee.

F. Functions of Standing Committee

1. To review the conditions of the brotherhood, to make recommendations to Annual Conference, and to take steps when necessary to conserve the unity of the brotherhood.

2. To review the reports of the General Brotherhood Board, and to consider the problems presented by the General Brotherhood Board, regional councils, district boards, district elders' bodies, and individuals and to make recommendations to these groups or individuals.

3. To consider the queries from districts and to suggest answers.

4. To serve as the Nominating Committee for Annual Conference officers, General Brotherhood Board members, and Annual Conference committees, it being understood that further nominations can be made from the floor by the delegate body.

G. Voting Privileges

Only those who represent districts on Standing Committee are eligible to make motions or to make nominations or to vote.

II. Constitution and Function of the Delegate Body

A. Eligibility

1. Any member of the Church of the Brethren who fulfills the qualifications as interpreted by Annual Conference is eligible to serve.

2. It is suggested, in order to have a large lay representation in the delegate body, that when local churches send two delegates one delegate should be from the laity.

3. Each congregation having a membership of two hundred or fewer may send one delegate; each congregation having more than two hundred may send one additional for each two hundred or fraction thereof.

B. Qualifications

1. Consecrated Christian living in home, church, and community.

2. Faithful service in local church and district.

3. Loyalty to the ideals and program of the Church of the Brethren.

4. A working knowledge and understanding of the brotherhood program.

5. Ability to exercise mature judgment in the solution of brotherhood problems.

6. Acceptance of the declaration of principles and purposes as set forth in the credentials for delegates to district and general conferences of the Church of the Brethren.

C. Credentials

1. The Standing Committee delegate credential blank shall be changed in form so as to indicate that the delegate whose name it bears has been chosen on the basis of the specified qualifications, and to indicate the membership of the district and the number of its delegates.

2. Credential blanks for delegates from the church shall be sent, along with other literature from the Publishing House, to each pastor or minister of each church, or shall appear in an issue of the *Messenger* a few weeks before each Annual Conference.

3. Each delegate shall be required to present the regular credential properly signed, before being seated, unless in the judgment of the credential committee there are justifiable reasons for making an exception.

4. Proper identification and seating of the delegates shall be arranged by such provisions as special badges, a recognition ceremony, and special seating areas.

D. Functions of the Delegate Body

1. It is the final authority of the brotherhood in all matters of procedure, program, polity, and discipline.

2. It elects the officers of the Annual Conference, the members of the General Brotherhood Board, and the members of special committees and commissions authorized by the brotherhood. These elections are made from nominations presented to the delegate body by the Standing Committee.

3. It reviews the work of the brotherhood as presented to Annual Conference in the reports of the General Brotherhood Board through its commissions and of the institutions of the brotherhood.

4. It projects the program of the brotherhood, determining the new fields of endeavor, plans for advance, size of budget, and all other necessary matters.

5. It disposes of queries.

6. It receives the reports of committees or commissions appointed to deal with specific problems in the life of the brotherhood.

7. It determines what resolutions shall be the voice of the brotherhood on the problems of the day.

E. Voting Privileges

Only those who represent churches or are members of Standing Committee are eligible to vote.

III. Moderator

A. Qualifications

1. Consecrated Christian living in home, church, and community.

2. Faithful service in local church and district.

3. Loyalty to the ideals and program of the Church of the Brethren.

4. A working knowledge and understanding of the brotherhood program.

5. Ability to exercise mature judgment in the solution of brotherhood problems.

6. Acceptance of the declaration of principles and purpose as set forth in the credentials for members to district and general conferences of the Church of the Brethren.

7. Familiarity with parliamentary procedures and skill in presiding over a deliberative assembly.

8. Capacity to cultivate desirable public relations.

9. Demonstrated leadership ability in brotherhood programs.

10. The moderator must be an ordained elder or an ordained minister.

B. Functions

1. To preside over all sessions of Standing Committee and of Annual Conference, and to act as the official representative of the church.

2. To contact district, regional, and other brotherhood conferences.

3. To serve ex officio as a member of the General Brotherhood Board, unless he is already a member.

4. To represent the brotherhood at strategic interchurch conferences.

5. To serve as a member of the Conference program committee.

6. To give a "state of the church" address at Annual Conference.

7. To serve as a member of the Annual Conference Locating Committee.

IV. Functions of the Assistant Moderator

A. To act as moderator in case the elected moderator cannot serve.

B. To assist the moderator at his request in the following ways:

1. Presiding over Standing Committee and Annual Conference.

2. Contacting regional and district conferences.

3. Representing the brotherhood at strategic interchurch conferences.

V. Functions of the Writing Clerk

A. To record the minutes of Standing Committee and Annual Conference.

B. To prepare the minutes of Annual Conference for publication.

C. To interpret the minutes of Annual Conference on the church problems as they arise in Conference business sessions.

D. To conserve, in co-operation with the Historical Commission, the records of Standing Committee meetings and Annual Conference actions.

E. To approve payment of Annual Conference bills.

F. To serve as an ex-officio member of the Annual Conference Program Committee.

G. To serve as a member of the Annual Conference Locating Committee.

VI. Function of the Reader

The reader shall read distinctly all papers as often as requested.

The Standing Committee shall elect a reader as an officer of the Standing Committee who may also be chosen as the Conference reader.

VII. Constitution and Function of the Program Committee

A. Personnel

The program committee shall consist of the moderator of Annual Conference, a staff member selected by the General Brotherhood Board, who may be selected to serve for two years, and three members nominated by Standing Committee and elected by Annual Conference for three years with one member's term expiring each year. The writing clerk shall be an ex-officio member of this committee.

B. Duties

The Program Committee shall prepare and publish the program of Annual Conference; and shall provide the necessary supervision for the most effective presentation of the program.

VIII. The Conference Treasurer

The treasurer of the General Brotherhood Board shall be designated as the Annual Conference treasurer.

IX. The Locating Committee

The Locating Committee shall be composed of the moderator, the clerk, and the staff member of the Conference program committee, together with the regional board in the region where the Conference is to be held.

THE REGION

I. Organization by Regions

The brotherhood is composed of five regions, namely, Southeastern Region, Eastern Region, Central Region, Western Region and Pacific Coast Region.

The Southeastern Region is composed of the following districts: Florida and Georgia; Mardela; Maryland, Eastern; Maryland, Middle; Maryland, Western; North and South Carolina; Tennessee and Alabama; Virginia, Eastern; Virginia, First; Virginia, Northern; Virginia, Second; Virginia, Southern; West Virginia, First; West Virginia, Second.

The Eastern Region is composed of the following districts: Pennsylvania, Eastern; Pennsylvania, Middle; Pennsylvania, Southeastern, New Jersey, Eastern New York and Northern Delaware; Pennsylvania, Southern; Pennsylvania, Western.

The Central Region is composed of the following districts: Illinois, Northern, and Wisconsin; Illinois, Southern; Indiana, Middle; Indiana, Northern; Indiana, Southern; Michigan; Ohio, Northeastern; Ohio, Northwestern; Ohio, Southern.

The Western Region is composed of the following districts: Colorado; Iowa, Middle; Iowa, Northern, Minnesota, and South Dakota; Iowa, Southern; Kansas, Northeastern; Kansas, Northwestern; Kansas, Southeastern; Kansas, Southwestern; Missouri, Middle; Missouri, Northern; Missouri, Southern, and Arkansas; Nebraska; North Dakota and Eastern Montana; Oklahoma, Panhandle of Texas and New Mexico; Texas and Louisiana.

The Pacific Coast Region is composed of the following districts: California, Northern; California, Southern, and Arizona; Canada; Idaho and Western Montana; Oregon; Washington.

II. A Suggestive Plan of Regional Organization

A. The Regional Board

1. Constitution of the board

The regional board shall be constituted of the members of the General Brotherhood Board who reside in the region and at least one representative from each district of the region elected or appointed in district meeting for at least a three-year tenure. The presidents of the colleges and the seminary president shall be members of the boards in their respective regions. The regional board may have the representatives of the functional program of the region as members of the board in an advisory capacity and without voting privilege.

2. Function of the board

a. The function of the board shall be to interpret, to co-ordinate, and to promote the total program of the church.

b. The board shall assume responsibility for the enlistment, placement, and supervision of the pastors in the region. In so doing, it shall communicate and co-operate with the General Brotherhood Board and work through district and local church ministerial representatives.

c. The board shall plan and promote the regional conference.

d. The board shall represent the region on the Locating Committee for Annual Conference when in that region. Other members shall be the moderator and the clerk of Annual Conference and the staff member of the Conference Program Committee. This committee shall set the place and time for Annual Conference.

e. The board shall choose the regional secretary with the approval of the General Brotherhood Board. The board shall select other workers as needed.

f. The board shall aid in planning the regional program and shall supervise the workers of the region.

3. Relation of region to district and brotherhood

The relation of the regional to the brotherhood program is that of creative implementation; to the district program it is that of co-ordination and stimulation.

4. Functions of the regional secretary

The following functions are suggested and such other functions may be added as deemed acceptable by the several regional boards and supervised by the boards:

a. To promote the total church program in the region.

b. To counsel with churches, ministers, district boards, and group organizations regarding the church program.

c. To co-operate with the General Brotherhood Board and the district boards in organizing and promoting church extension.

d. To aid district boards and the ministerial secretary in the enlistment, supervision and placement of ministers, unless the board shall choose to designate another person to assume these responsibilities.

e. To cultivate desirable public relations for the colleges and to interpret the college program in the districts.

B. The Regional Conference

The purpose of the regional conference is to give inspiration, education, and fellowship; to vitalize the church program in the districts and the local churches; to interpret the brotherhood program and emphases.

THE DISTRICT

Following is a suggested plan for district organization.

I. District Board

A. Personnel

It is recommended that the district give consideration to establishing one board which shall be called the district board. The district board shall be composed of at least five members elected by district conference. The moderator, the treasurer, and the clerk of district meeting shall be ex-officio members without vote. The district board may have advisory groups representing the functional program of the district without voting privilege.

The term of service shall be three years with no member serving more than two terms in succession.

The board shall organize by electing a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary.

B. Functions

1. To encourage and vitalize the local churches through the promotion of evangelism, the creating of new churches, the making of surveys, peace and moral welfare education, the organization of age-group programs, leadership education, group meetings of ministers for inspiration and fellowship, district rallies, summer camps, work camps, stewardship education, the developing of Christian home life, etc.

2. To promote and supervise the brotherhood program in the district.

3. To co-operate with the regional board and the General Brotherhood Board in the supervision and location of pastors.

4. To select the district fieldworker and other personnel when authorized by the district board, to define his duties, and to supervise his work.

5. To hold and administer the funds of the district.

6. To hold title to district church property.

7. To plan and promote the district conference.

II. The Elders' Body

A. Composition of the Elders' Body

The elders' body shall be composed of ordained elders. The elders' body shall extend the privileges of the meeting to visiting elders, ministers, and members of the laity who are executive heads of their congregations, except in the executive sessions of the body, which shall be open only to elders of the district.

B. Functions of the Elders' Body

1. It shall serve as an advisory board in handling the problems of the district.

2. It shall receive reports of the conditions of the churches and shall make recommendations to district meeting in behalf of the spiritual welfare of the churches.

3. It shall pass upon the ordination of ministers and elders.

4. It shall act as the appeal board for local congregations and individual members.

5. It shall discipline ministers, laymen, or elders when necessary.

6. Executive sessions of ordained elders may be held to consider items of ordination and matters of discipline.

III. The District Conference

The purpose of the district conference is to provide education, inspiration, and fellowship; to vitalize the local church program; to interpret the regional and brotherhood programs and to transact the business of the district; to serve as the vehicle by which the concerns of local congregations are passed on to the Annual Conference.

IV. The Moderator of District Conference

A. Eligibility

Any elder or ordained minister of the church who meets the qualifications herein set forth may be elected moderator of the district conference. He shall not serve more than once in three years.

B. Qualifications

1. Consecrated Christian living in home, church, and community.
2. Faithful service in local church and district.
3. Loyalty to the ideals and program of the Church of the Brethren.
4. A working knowledge and understanding of the brotherhood program.
5. Ability to exercise mature judgment in the solution of brotherhood problems.
6. Acceptance of the declaration of principles and purposes as set forth in the credentials for delegates to district and general conferences of the Church of the Brethren.
7. Familiarity with parliamentary procedures and skill in presiding over a deliberative assembly.
8. Capacity to cultivate desirable public relations.
9. Demonstrated leadership ability in the brotherhood program.

C. Duties

1. Shall preside at business sessions of the district conference.
2. Shall serve as an ex-officio member of the district board.
3. Shall study carefully the need of the district.
4. Shall serve on the program committee of the district conference.
5. Shall deliver a "state of the church" address at district conference.

V. Duties of Standing Committee Members in the Districts

These members shall interpret the decisions and recommendations of Annual Conference to the delegates of the district conference in a written report, in addition to their report to the elders' body. When called upon they shall interpret the decisions to local churches.

VI. Duties of the Clerk of District Conference

The clerk shall record the minutes of the district conference and prepare them for publication, interpret the minutes of the district conference on the various problems as they arise in the district business sessions, and conserve the records of the district in co-operation with the district board. The clerk shall serve for a three-year term. The district shall determine whether he shall be elected to succeed himself.

VII. Duties of the Reader

The reader shall read distinctly all papers as often as requested.

VIII. The Treasurer

There shall be one district treasurer, who shall have custody of all district capital funds, district endowments, and district annuities as well as all other funds and moneys coming into the district from whatever source; the district treasurer should be elected for a term of three years, and should be required to make bond in a sum sufficient to safeguard all funds which may come into his hands. The district shall determine whether he shall be elected to succeed himself.

IX. The Delegate Body

A. It is the final authority of the district in all matters of procedure, program, polity, and discipline.

B. It elects the officers of the district conference, the members of special committees or commissions authorized by the district, and members of the district board when so authorized.

C. It reviews the work of the district as presented to the Annual Conference in the reports of the boards and committees of the district.

D. It projects the program of the district determining the new fields of endeavor, plans for advance, size of budget, and all other necessary matters.

E. It disposes of queries which come to the district conference.

F. It receives the reports of committees or commissions appointed to deal with specific problems in the life of the district.

G. It determines what resolutions shall be the voice of the district on the problems of the day.

The Local Church

The following recommendations for the local church are suggestive and permissive only. It is felt that local churches would benefit by experimentation with these recommendations working toward greater unity in local church organization.

I. Introductory

A. What the Church Is

The church is the "body of Christ," the "family of God," "the household of faith," and "the pillar and ground of the truth." The church is divine in its mission and purpose. Its central purpose is evangelism. It is the organism through which Christ works for the redemption of individuals and to make the Christian principles operative in all human and social relationships. It is the school of Christlike character, the Christian fellowship with Christ at the center, and the Christian community of believers consecrated to Christlike living.

B. Functions of the Church

The functions of the church may be listed as follows:

1. To win persons to Christ through evangelism.

2. To teach and preach the Bible and Christian truth as revealed in the Bible.

3. To provide enriching experiences in worship.

4. To inspire persons and help individuals toward the imitation of Jesus.

5. To educate church members in the history, ideals, and sacraments of the church.

6. To provide an effective educational program in family living, missionary education, stewardship, peace, temperance, leadership education, and recreation.

7. To develop Christian fellowship within the local church, and also with other Christian churches and other races.

8. To provide effective pastoral care and counseling for individuals.

9. To enlist church members in Christian service projects.

10. To develop a fellowship of spiritual, emotional, physical, and material sharing.

11. To bring the principles of Christ to bear in all human and social relationships.

C. Principles of Local Church Organization

1. The local church is the basic unit of all church organization.

2. The organization of the local church should be determined by the needs of the program.

3. The whole organization should be designed to cultivate loyalty to Christ and to the differing phases of church life.

4. The principles of unity, efficiency, and democracy should be exercised in developing the church organization along with the desirability of using a large number of members in the church program.

5. The church board should become the unifying and co-ordinating element in the local church program.

6. All officers and committee members should be trained for the work assigned to them.

7. Efforts should be made to enlist new personnel on committees. No one person should hold more than one or two church offices. Tenure of office in the local church should be similar to tenure in district and brotherhood offices: two terms of three to five years. After the lapse of a year individuals would again be eligible for office.

II. The Church Council

The church council is the final authority of the local congregation; it is the church fellowship in business session. It evaluates past accomplishments, hears reports, studies present conditions, elects officers, and makes plans for the future program of the church; it provides opportunity for the sharing and co-ordination of differing points of view.

III. The Church Board

It is suggested that a church board with administrative power be set up in each church for the purpose of unifying the work of the local church. Two plans for such a board are suggested below. The purpose of a church board, regardless of the plan of organization used, should be to bring about the fullest possible unity and development of the church and the highest efficiency in the performance of its work.

PLAN ONE

A church board of from five to twelve members (depending on the size of the church) who will dedicate themselves fully to the Christian task should be elected by the church council. In this selection men, women, and youth should be considered in order that all interests of the church might be represented.

A. Term of Service

Each member of the church board should serve a term of three years and should not succeed himself more than once without an interim lapse of a year. Terms of service should be staggered for continuity.

B. Qualifications

1. Consecrated Christian living in home, church, and community.
2. Faithful service in local church.
3. Loyalty to the ideals and program of the Church of the Brethren.
4. A working knowledge and understanding of the church program.
5. Ability to exercise good judgment in the solution of church problems.

C. The board shall elect its own officers.

D. Functions

Planning, supervising, and co-ordinating the work of the church through the fields of the ministry, missions and evangelism, Christian education, stewardship, property and finance, music and worship, service and relief, and social and recreational life.

E. Execution of the Program and Policies of the Church Board

1. The church board shall itself carry out the functions delineated above, following something of the commissions pattern of the General Brotherhood Board; or, with the approval of the church council, it shall select additional commission or committee members to carry out these functions. These commission members shall attend the meetings of the church board.
2. The chairmen of the group organizations such as men, women, and youth should be invited to attend the board meetings with the right to participate in the discussions without vote.
3. The board shall elect its own officers.
4. The pastor shall serve as an ex-officio member of the board without right of vote.

PLAN TWO

A local church board should be composed of members representing the functional groups of the entire church. Members to this board should be selected by virtue of their office with the respective functional groups. In small churches the functional interests may be represented by an individual rather than a committee and they would then make up the local church board. In larger churches each committee and interest group selects its chairman or president, who in turn becomes a member of the local church board.

A. Composition of the Board

Elder or executive head
Clerk
Chairman of the ministry and extension department
Chairman of the finance department
Chairman of the trustee department
Chairman of the personnel and nomination department
Chairman of the deacons
Chairman of the music and worship department
Adult director
Youth director
Children's director
Director of women's work
Director of men's work

B. Functions

Planning, supervising, and co-ordinating the work of the church through the fields of the ministry, missions and evangelism, Christian education, stewardship, property and finance, music and worship, service and relief, social and recreational life. Preparing the agenda for council meeting.

C. The board shall elect its own officers.

D. The pastor shall serve as an ex-officio member of the board without privilege of voting.

IV. The Official Board

The official board is composed of elders of local churches, ministers, and deacons. They are responsible for the general oversight of the church's spiritual welfare and church discipline.

V. The Officials of the Church

A. Ordained Elders

Ordained elders, in addition to being members of the official board of their local churches, may serve as elders-in-charge of their own local churches or of other churches which might call them to that office. They should be eager and willing to serve the church and to "feed the flock" locally and through the district, the regional, and the general church program in any way that they can.

B. Elder-in-Charge or Executive Head of the Local Church

The elder-in-charge of a local church should seek to be helpful to the pastor and to the church in every way he can. It is his responsibility to preside at all general business sessions or council meetings unless he has designated someone to serve in his stead. He is the executive head of the local church and should work co-operatively and carefully with the local church board in administering the church program. Consecrated and able laymen may be called by the church to become executive heads of local churches, in which case they would perform the functions outlined above.

C. The Pastor

The pastor is the spiritual shepherd of the church. He serves as an adviser on the church program, working through church boards and committees. He should work through other people and inspire others to serve. He should endeavor to organize and educate his people to serve in personal evangelism, visiting, counseling, leading in worship, and sometimes in preaching. The pastor's central work is the spiritual care of the parish.

The pastor is an ex-officio member of all church boards and committees.

D. The Deacons

It is the special responsibility of the deacons to help care for the needy within the congregation, and to help maintain the church fellowship. They can help the pastor in counseling and in ministering to the sick, the unfortunate, and the needy. They may assist with the anointing services. In addition to these, they should assume general oversight of the physical arrangements for observing the ordinances of the church such as baptism and love feasts.

E. The Church Clerk

The church clerk should be elected for a term of three years. He should record the proceedings of church business meetings, act as secretary of the church board, keep an official membership list in co-operation with the elder or pastor, issue letters of membership, act as custodian of important church documents, prepare local, district, and brotherhood reports, and act as, or work with, the church historian.

F. The Church Treasurer

The church treasurer should be elected for a term of three years. He should pay all properly authorized bills, keep accurate records of all monies and church expenditures, and give quarterly financial reports.

VI. The Nominating Committee

The nominating committee should be composed of three to five members who are elected by the church council for three-year terms properly staggered for continuity. They should survey the congregation and present to the church council worthy servants as candidates for church offices as requested. As a general rule, they should nominate two candidates for each office to be filled.

VII. The Specialized Activities of the Church

The following specialized activities of the church will be cared for differently in different churches. In certain churches, particularly the smaller churches, they might well be cared for directly by the church board. In other churches they might be cared for by special committees whose chairmen would be members of the church board or who represent them on the church board.

A. The Ministerial Function

The ministerial function is to serve as adviser to the pastor; it should be helpful in educating the congregation in church-pastor relationships; it should recommend ministers to the church when a new pastor is needed; it should carry out the details of employing the pastor for the church; it should supply speakers in the absence of the pastor and recommend evangelists for the church.

B. The Music and Worship Function

The music and worship function is to assist the pastor or elder in the total music and worship program of the church. It should sponsor special projects such as schools of music and of hymn appreciation; it should help to supervise the choir, appoint the choir director, appoint music leaders and instrumentalists, provide special music, educate the congregation in sacred music, and provide music materials. In addition it might well help to educate the congregation in the fine art of group worship, family worship, and personal devotions. It should provide worship materials needed by the various church and family groups; it should sponsor special projects of worship such as retreats and schools of prayer; it should study and provide helpful esthetics of worship such as furniture, pictures, flowers, and other physical equipment. The worship function could also include supervision of ushers.

C. The Evangelistic and Missionary Function

The evangelistic and missionary function should be to recommend local mission projects, to stimulate interest in and educate for home and foreign missions, to promote the brotherhood offerings for missions, to seek and to stimulate recruits for mission work. It should co-operate with the education function in a school of missions.

D. The Christian Education Function

The function of Christian education is to plan and direct the total educational program of the church, to outline objectives for the teaching program of the church, to recommend curriculum and program for the educational work of the church, to plan for leadership education, to supervise Sunday evening group meetings and weekday Christian education, to recommend nominees to the nominating committee or to the church board for appointment as workers in special areas, such as temperance, peace, home and family, stewardship, visual education, and recreation, and to provide educational materials for the church, to provide a library and a librarian, to promote special church conferences and church camps.

E. The Christian Service Function

The Christian service function should promote interest and support for the brotherhood service program; it should stimulate interest in a dynamic approach to peace; it should enlist church members in local service activities in co-operation with men's and women's work; it should give vocational guidance to members of the church; it should work in behalf of aiding Brethren to settle in the church community; it should promote projects of mutual sharing; it should co-operate with the Christian education function in peace education; it should assume responsibility for welfare work in the congregation in behalf of the poor and unfortunate.

F. The Christian Stewardship Function

The Christian stewardship function should prepare a church budget to be submitted to the church board; it should plan and direct the every-member canvass or experience other methods of supporting the budget; it should receive and disburse church money as authorized by church council; it should co-operate with the Christian education function in stewardship education; it should interpret the financial condition of the church and the trends in giving.

G. The Properties Function

The properties function is to hold for the church the title to all church property, to supervise the care and repair of church property, to consider special requests for the use of church equipment and property, to employ the janitor and supervise his work.

Home Missions

For several years there has been a growing feeling in the brotherhood that the home mission opportunities are not being fully cared for. This feeling finally led to the appointment at the Asheville Conference in 1942 of a committee to study and report on the question. The next year the committee brought in a report of progress. At the meeting in

1944 at Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, the committee brought in a report which was received by the Conference and recommitted for further study. At the same meeting other matters of organization were referred to the committee and the committee was enlarged to five.

At the meeting at North Manchester in 1945, the committee requested that a Commission of Fifteen be appointed to study and bring in a report on the whole field of church organization and church discipline with the purpose of more nearly unifying our practice and of promoting a more aggressive program. This commission was appointed, and that part of their report which suggests a General Brotherhood Board was approved and the Board is now in operation. It is our feeling that the General Brotherhood Board will devote itself to the problem of producing a workable, aggressive program on home mission work. However, we are submitting herewith the following guiding principles and particular aspects of home mission work, in the hope that they will be helpful to the General Brotherhood Board as it works at the problem.

I. Guiding Principles in Home Mission Work

A. All North America shall be regarded as the field of activity for home mission work.

B. The General Brotherhood Board shall formulate and adopt an over-all policy of home mission work after making a survey of our present home mission work.

C. It shall indicate its acceptance of home mission work as one of the major enterprises of the brotherhood by:

1. Lifting up and dignifying its importance to the level of foreign mission work.
2. Challenging our youth to dedicate their lives to home mission service.
3. Giving it adequate resources of funds, perhaps $100,000 annually, and able, well-trained personnel.
4. Setting up goals toward which the brotherhood should strive, i.e., certain increases in the over-all membership of our church and of the number of new churches.
5. Instituting a vigorous program of evangelism.

D. Comity shall be practiced in the establishment of home mission churches and, where advisable, there should be co-operation with other evangelical groups in the maintenance of union or federated churches.

E. It shall be the policy of the General Brotherhood Board to give grants to districts and local churches for the establishment of missions when careful surveys prove the wisdom of such aid.

F. Financial help to the home mission churches by the General Brotherhood Board shall be conditioned by the policy of such churches accepting supervision from the district, in co-operation with the General

Brotherhood Board, with the view of securing for them the most able leadership and leading them to become self-supporting as rapidly as possible.

G. The Commission on Christian Service shall be encouraged to co-operate with funds and personnel in the formation and strengthening of mission churches (note section C under "Particular Aspects of Home Mission Work").

H. The General Brotherhood Board shall study carefully all general and Brethren migration and population shifts with a view to capitalizing upon the home mission opportunities inherent within them and alerting ourselves to the opportunities for organizing new churches in new city and new rural developments.

II. Particular Aspects of Home Mission Work

A. Each region and district of our brotherhood should make surveys of home mission opportunities and plan to establish new missions. In establishing a new church the following order of emphasis is suggested: strong leadership, adequate buildings, rapid integration and development of the resources of the community.

B. Regions and districts should make surveys of all weak and dying churches in order to determine what their future status should be:

1. Where the field is promising, leadership should be strengthened, ample funds made available, the program of the mission geared to the needs of the community and, in some cases, the church plant relocated.

2. Where the field does not show promise, further investment of funds should be guarded.

C. The values of volunteer service as developed in Brethren work camps and C.P.S. offer a new approach to church work and church extension and we suggest the General Brotherhood Board study them with the view of utilizing them in church extension and home mission work.

D. The Commission on Ministry and Home Missions should give mission churches guidance in serving their communities and building together to preserve the principles of the New Testament as understood by the Church of the Brethren; and also assist with helpful materials and counsel in making church membership more meaningful.

E. Each region should have sufficient help for the supervision of the program of ministry and home missions.

F. A ministry of evangelism to other races looking to the establishment of interracial and racial churches should be pursued aggressively.

COUNSELING AND DISCIPLINE

I. Definition and Function

Counseling and discipline are fundamental to the Christian life.

They should begin in the early years of childhood and continue throughout life. By their nature and meaning counseling and discipline are concerned with the two most essential aspects of Christian experience, namely, (1) instruction and growth; and (2) correction and redemption. Therefore, it is the special responsibility of the church to provide adequate opportunities for (1) thorough preparation for church membership and Christian growth; and (2) the carrying of special responsibilities on the various church boards and committees.

Ministers should feel specially obligated to put themselves under a fitting physical, mental, moral, and spiritual discipline throughout all the years of their Christian ministry.

This paper is particularly concerned with the corrective and redemptive aspects of counseling and discipline. It recognizes that where the instructional and growth aspects of counseling and discipline have been cared for adequately the corrective aspect can be greatly minimized.

II. Purpose of Counseling and Discipline

The purpose of counseling and discipline is threefold:

A. To bring about the redemption of the individual.

B. To preserve the integrity of the church.

C. To maintain worthy standards of Christian life and conduct in loyalty to the church and in devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ.

III. Agencies for Counseling and Discipline

In keeping with Matthew 18 and 1 Corinthians 13, counseling and discipline shall be ministered by: (1) the elder, pastor, or ministers of the local church; (2) a special committee; (3) official board of the local church; (4) elders' body of the district; (5) or, the Standing Committee of the Annual Conference.

IV. Subjects of Counseling and Discipline

The subjects of counseling and discipline shall be all members who have been officially received into the fellowship of the Church of the Brethren.

V. Causes for Counseling and Discipline

The following offenses shall constitute cause for counseling and discipline:

A. Of Lay Members

1. Failure to live up to the teachings of the New Testament.

2. Failure to be loyal to the specific emphases of the New Testament as interpreted by the Church of the Brethren.

3. The following offenses shall be regarded as a basis of counseling and discipline: immoral conduct; crime; use, manufacture, or sale of intoxicating beverages; dishonesty, fomenting and participating in strife in family, church, community, or national relationships; failure to adjust

differences between members of the church according to Matthew 18; failure to maintain Christian standards in all financial dealings; and unchristian family relations; etc.

B. Of Officials of the Church

In addition to offenses that apply to the laity, the following shall constitute special causes for counseling and discipline of officials of the church (deacons, ministers, and elders):

1. Persistent neglect of duties of the office.
2. Disseminating doctrines contrary to the beliefs and practices of the Church of the Brethren.
3. Failure to maintain exemplary Christian family relations in harmony with the teachings of 1 Timothy 3:1-9 and Titus 1:5-9.
4. Insubordination and failure to comply with the established doctrines and practices of the Church of the Brethren.

VI. *Procedure in Counseling and Discipline*

A. Of Lay Members and Local Church Officers

1. Any person who commits an offense against the church shall be approached by the elder, pastor, or minister in the spirit of Matthew 18 and 1 Corinthians 13. An assiduous effort shall be made to develop within the offending party an attitude which shall cause him to make confession, truly repent, and seek forgiveness.
2. If the foregoing effort fails to secure the desired result, the elder or pastor shall be empowered to appoint a special committee for further counseling with the offending person.
3. In the event that steps (1) and (2), suggested above, are not adequate to restore right relationships, the official board shall appoint a committee of investigation, consisting of two or more members of the official board, whose duty it shall be to seek the facts in the situation carefully and impartially and offer further counsel.
4. If these procedures fail to bring about restoration, the offense shall be put in writing by the official board and submitted to the church for final action.
5. In case suspension becomes necessary, the church shall continue to seek for the redemption of the individual involved, and shall strive to bring about his reconciliation with the church.
6. The suspended individual has the right to appeal his case to the elders' body of the district, and if not satisfied with their decision he may appeal to the Standing Committee of the Annual Conference.

B. Offenses of Ordained Ministers and Elders

An ordained minister or elder owes his ministry to the district elders' body, is responsible to the same, and shall be disciplined by them.

The following steps shall constitute the procedure in handling cases of discipline involving any ordained minister or elder:

1. The report of any alleged offense, herein before-mentioned or otherwise, shall be presented in writing to the moderator, or to one of the officers of the district elders' body, setting forth the charges.

2. The officers of the elders' body shall either appoint or become a committee of investigation and counseling, whose duty it shall be to gather carefully and impartially all the facts relevant to the case, and to counsel with the person involved.

3. The committee of investigation and counseling shall report its findings to the officers of the district elders' body and if, in their judgment, the facts support the accusations presented, the moderator shall bring the matter to the district elders' body.

4. The accused shall have the right to present any written or oral statement in his behalf, and to interrogate the committee of investigation.

5. The elders' body shall have the authority to review and weigh the evidence presented, and to make further investigation if this appears desirable; and shall have jurisdiction in determining the degree of the guilt of the accused and to make the final decision as to whether or not the accused shall be exonerated, or removed from the ministry or from the eldership, or from membership in the church, or whether a lesser penalty shall be fixed.

6. The elders' body shall have the authority to receive and consider an application or request for reinstatement into the ministry or eldership. If there is satisfactory evidence that the individual concerned has truly repented and has proved himself worthy of the confidence of the church and of the high calling of the office of the Christian ministry, they are empowered to reinstate him.

7. Any minister has the right of appeal to the Standing Committee of the Annual Conference if not satisfied with the decision of the district elders' body.

PROPERTY HOLDINGS, FINANCIAL RESOURCES, AND INCORPORATIONS

I. Local

The commission believes that for the sake of uniformity and greater security in ownership of Church of the Brethren property, the title to all local church property should be held by local trustees, in trust, for the teaching and dissemination of the gospel of Jesus Christ, according to the beliefs, practices, and doctrines of the Church of the Brethren, as set forth and promulgated from time to time by Annual Conference.

A. Make-up of Trustees

The trustees should consist of three members of the local church who are in good standing, and each member should be elected for a period of three years.

B. Method of Election

The trustees should be elected by the local church at a regular or called business session of the members thereof.

C. Method of Succession

The terms of the trustees should expire successively, thereby necessitating the election of a new member each year; retiring trustees should be eligible for re-election, if deemed wise by the local church; in case of a vacancy caused by death, resignation, or removal to some other church, or in the case of failure to act, steps should be taken by the local church to supply the deficiency as soon as practical after the deficiency occurs; in cases where for some reason or other a vacancy is not filled upon the expiration of the term of any one of the trustees, the old member so affected will hold over until his successor has been duly elected.

D. Duties of the Trustees

The primary duty of the trustees shall be that of holding title to all local church property, in trust, as set out in paragraph one above, which shall conform to the legal requirements of the various states, territories, or other possessions of the United States, or foreign countries; as such, the trustees shall take, hold, and convey title to any and all real estate belonging to the local church.

E. Other Duties

The local church may, if it sees fit to do so, impose other duties and responsibilities upon the trustees, such as caring for the buildings and grounds, remodeling and building of new structures, etc. However, in such cases specific authority should be given by the local church, as in cases where other individuals are chosen to perform some specific duties for the local church.

F. Gifts, Bequests, etc.

When the local church receives property by gift or bequest, it should be the duty of the trustees to take title to same and hold the property, in trust, as in the case of property bought by the local church.

G. Transfer of Church Property

When it is deemed wise or advantageous to the local church to sell or otherwise dispose of a particular piece of property, the conveyance should be executed by the trustees in their trust capacity, under the direction of the local church and with the approval of the district board of the district in which the local church is located.

H. Closed or Abandoned Church Property

In cases where local churches have been closed or where the property has been abandoned by the removal of the membership to other places, by death or otherwise, the district board should intervene and give aid and counsel in the matter of the proper disposition of the properties thus affected, to the end that title thereto may vest in the district board, as trustees for the district.

I. Uniform Procedure in Conveyance

1. All property acquired by the local church should be transferred in accordance with the provisions set forth in paragraph one (I), above.

2. Restrictive covenants should be contained in all deeds of conveyance, as follows:

a. That if the property ever ceases to be used in accordance with the provisions set forth in paragraph one, or in cases where the local church has been closed or the property abandoned, the district conference of the district in which the local church is located may, upon the recommendation of the district board, assert title to the property and have the same vested in the district board, as trustees for the district.

b. That before a legal title to the property can be conveyed, consent of the district board must first be secured, and the deed of conveyance must have affixed thereto the signatures and acknowledgements of the executive officers of the board.

J. Return of Property to Local Churches

In cases where the aforementioned restrictive covenant providing for the divesture of title to property owned by the local church results in the title being vested in the district board, as trustees, it is understood that this action is taken only as a means of conserving for the Church of the Brethren property which has been purchased and developed by consecrated effort, and in many cases at great sacrifice by individuals who have been loyal to the principles as set out in paragraph one, and that the properties thus affected, or their equivalent, shall be held in trust by the district board with the understanding that they shall be promptly returned to the local church, if and when the reasons for the divesture of title to said properties are removed; it is further understood that until such time as the said reasons are removed, the district board will use the affected properties in accordance with the provisions set forth in paragraph one, and for the best interests of the Church of the Brethren.

K. Examination of Title to Local Church Property

The district board, in co-operation with local churches, should secure the assistance of competent legal counsel and examine the title to all local church property located within its respective district, and where no legal title exists, by the property being deeded in the name of the local church, or otherwise, without the power vested in one or more individuals to convey title, assistance should be given the local church in the matter of effecting a legal title to its property; and secondly, where a legal title does exist, the local church should cooperate with the recommendations herewith made by incorporating in its deeds the restrictive covenants set forth under section I, above.

L. Charters of Incorporation

In cases where local church property has been duly incorporated under state law, it is not necessary to provide trustees, inasmuch as the officers of the corporation are legally clothed with the power and authority to convey title; therefore, it is not necessary where charters of incorporation have been provided that the charters be dissolved. In deference to the plan of providing trustees, rather than charters of incorporation, the former plan seems to be more universally adaptable to the holding of local church property because of its simplicity. However, in cases where charters of incorporation have been provided, in order to safeguard the interests of the Church of the Brethren, the local church, under the direction of the district board, should effect a trust agreement with the district in which it is located, providing for the divestment of title to its property, for the reasons and under the conditions set forth under section I, and in keeping with the recommendations made in section K.

II. District

The commission believes that for the sake of uniformity and greater security in ownership of Church of the Brethren property the title to all district church property should be held by the district board, in trust, for the teaching and dissemination of the gospel of Jesus Christ, according to the beliefs, practices, and doctrines of the Church of the Brethren, as set forth and promulgated from time to time by Annual Conference.

A. Gifts, Bequests, etc.

When the district receives property by gift or bequest, it shall be the duty of the district board to take title to same, and hold the property, in trust, as in case of property purchased by the district.

B. District Property

When it is deemed wise or advantageous to the district to buy, sell, or otherwise dispose of a particular piece of property, the conveyance shall be executed by the district board, in its trust capacity, with the approval of district conference.

C. Closed or Abandoned Church Property

In cases where local churches have been closed, or where the property has been abandoned by the removal of the membership to other places, by death or otherwise, the district board shall intervene in the matter of the proper disposition of the properties thus affected, to the end that title thereto may vest in the district board, to be held in trust for the district.

D. Uniform Procedure in Conveyance

1. All property acquired by the district should be transferred in accordance with the provisions set forth in paragraph one, Part II, above.

2. A restrictive covenant should be contained in all deeds of conveyance, as follows:

That before a legal title to the property can be conveyed, consent of the district conference must first be secured, and the deed of conveyance must have affixed thereto the signatures and acknowledgements of the moderator and clerk of district conference, in addition to the duly authorized signatures and acknowledgements of the members of the district board.

E. Examination of Title to All Local and District Property

The district board, in co-operation with local churches and the assistance of competent legal counsel, should familiarize itself with the status of the title to all local and district properties, as recommended under sections K and L, Part I, and in cases where necessary, changes in the deeds of conveyance should be made in order that all local and district properties may be conserved for the best interests of the Church of the Brethren.

F. Budgets

The district board should have charge of all district budgets; all budgets recommended by the board should be ratified by district conference.

III. Brotherhood Owned and Related Institutions

A. Bethany Biblical Seminary

The board of trustees of Bethany Biblical Seminary shall be composed of ten elected members. One member shall be nominated by the alumni association and approved by Annual Conference. Nine members shall be nominated by Standing Committee and elected by Annual Conference; three members representing the colleges, three members representing the ministry, three members from the laity of the church. The president of the seminary shall be an ex-officio member of this board. Each member shall be elected for a three-year term of office. The tenure rule of two successive terms shall apply.

B. Colleges

The commission feels that because the charters of our various colleges differ it is impossible to treat them as a unit. However, there are certain things which it would recommend which it feels would tend to bring the colleges and our church into a more intimate relationship. These recommendations are as follows:

1. That a majority of the members of the board of trustees should be members of the Church of the Brethren.

2. That, in the selection of faculty, preference be given to members of the Church of the Brethren.

3. That emphasis should be given by the colleges to the teaching of

basic Christian doctrines and to the teaching of our Brethren heritage and practices.

4. That greater emphasis should be given through the various agencies of the church to the matter of financial support for our colleges.

5. That the colleges retain the provision in their charters that, in case of dissolution, the assets of the college shall be turned over to the Church of the Brethren.

C. Bethany Hospital

The commission makes recommendations concerning Bethany Hospital, which are as follows:

1. That Bethany Hospital should continue as a separate corporation held in trust for the Church of the Brethren.

2. That since the hospital trains nurses for foreign service and since the hospital is vitally geared to the program and plans of the church, the financial plans of the hospital should be submitted to the General Brotherhood Board for approval and encouragement. [See *Minutes of the Annual Conferences, 1923-1944,* page 154.]

D. Pension Board

The commission makes recommendations concerning the Pension Board, which are as follows:

1. That a separate corporation be formed for the Pension Board.

2. That the personnel of the Pension Board may or may not be chosen from the General Brotherhood Board, but that it should be under the supervision of that board.

Answer of 1947 Annual Conference: Report adopted as revised. After the preparation of the approved report in a compiled booklet for distribution the Commission of Fifteen is to be dismissed.

NOTE: Two other queries affecting the brotherhood organization came before the 1947 Conference. See the query entitled "Nomenclature of Commissions" and the one entitled "Responsibility for Financial Promotion." For later revisions in the brotherhood organization see the minutes of the 1951 Conference, the query entitled "Revision of the Brotherhood Organization."

Co-operation With Other Brethren Bodies

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference through Standing Committee that the commissions of the General Brotherhood Board be authorized to invite other Brethren bodies to co-operate with them if it seems desirable.

Answer of 1947 Annual Conference: Request granted after amending "Brethren bodies" to read "Christian bodies."

Ministry to Negroes

Query, 1945

Since we as a church have believed and preached the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man; since we have achieved a high state of democracy and equality within our ranks, which needs a wider application; since, though we with pride can state that our membership has never held slaves, yet with shame we must admit that we have done almost nothing for the more than 13,000,000 in America with colored skins—

We, therefore, the Westernport congregation, petition Annual Conference of 1945, through district conference of Western Maryland, that a study be made and recommendations be brought as to how we can best serve our colored citizenry in America in the field of economics, Christian education, and home missions.

Pearle M. Boor, Clerk

Answer of district conference of Western Maryland: Passed to Annual Conference with the recommendation that a study be made to see whether or not some of our buildings and facilities, such as [those of] Daleville Academy or Blue Ridge College, may be used for schools for Negroes.

Ross Speicher, Writing Clerk

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Referred to the Council of Boards for study and report next year.

Report of the Council of Boards, 1946

The efforts to improve race relations have moved in four directions during the past year.

1. In order to understand better the principles involved in racial co-operation, scholarships have been provided for several people to attend the race relations schools at Fiske University, Tennessee, and at Storer College, West Virginia, in 1945 and 1946.

2. Special issues of the *Gospel Messenger* have been devoted to the implications of brotherhood.

3. Investigations have been made as to whether in areas where Negroes are moving in around Brethren churches it might not be possible to have these churches become interracial churches rather than to sell out and move. The possibility of having joint white and colored pastors for such work has been studied.

4. A study has been made of the possibilities of opening Negro churches in the South as home mission projects. In Arkansas an area of need has been found and in order to make such a church nontransient and more stable a committee is investigating the possibility of helping the Negroes gain ownership of the land in the area where the church would be located.

The committee organization is as follows: an Elgin staff committee on race, a Mission Board committee to investigate the Arkansas situation.

These combined committees are acting as the committee on race relations for the Council of Boards.

The Council of Boards asks for counsel and for the privilege of continuing its study for another year.

Answer of 1946 Annual Conference: Report accepted and the committee continued.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1947

The General Brotherhood Board assigned administrative responsibility for a program of race relations, including a ministry to Negroes, to the Commission on Christian Service. Ora Huston has been secured to investigate the possibilities and to follow through on a program of ministry to Negroes.

Answer of 1947 Annual Conference: Report accepted.

Nomenclature of Commissions

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference through Standing Committee that the nomenclature of the commissions of the General Brotherhood Board as authorized by the 1946 Annual Conference (Item A, Section I-4) be changed to read:

a. Foreign Mission Commission
b. Ministry and Home Mission Commission
c. Christian Education Commission
d. Brethren Service Commission
e. Finance Commission.

Answer of 1947 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Responsibility for Financial Promotion

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference through Standing Committee that responsibility for financial promotion be lodged directly under the board rather than the Finance Commission as outlined in the 1946 Annual Conference minutes, Item A, Section I-4-e.

Answer of 1947 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Revision of Conference Budget, 1947-48

The following is the budget as approved by Annual Conference of 1946:

Conference Budget:

General Mission Board	$ 315,200.00
Board of Christian Education	48,000.00
Board of Christian Education (Hymnal Fund)	2,500.00
General Ministerial Board	7,750.00
General Education Board	5,000.00
Bethany Biblical Seminary	40,000.00

Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund	30,000.00
General Education Board (College Fund)	45,000.00
Historical Commission	1,500.00
	$ 494,950.00
Brethren Service	500,000.00
Federal Council of Churches (payable from funds so designated)	1,500.00
	$ 996,450.00

The General Brotherhood Board recommends that the budget for 1947-48 be reopened and presents the following for consideration:

Conference Budget:

General Administration		$ 36,385.00*
Commission on Christian Education		
Historical Commission	$ 1,000.00	
Hymnal fund	2,500.00	
College appropriation	45,000.00	
College Presidents Association	1,500.00	
General	50,218.00	100,218.00
Commission on Finance		8,220.00*
Commission on Foreign Missions		284,300.00
Commission on Ministry and Home Missions		104,575.00
Bethany Biblical Seminary		49,250.00
Ministerial and Missionary Relief Fund		30,000.00
		$ 612,948.00
Commission on Christian Service		542,530.00
Federal Council of Churches (payable from funds so designated)		1,500.00
		$1,156,978.00

The asterisks indicate that these figures represent one half of the budgets for these departments. The other half is included in the budget of the Commission on Christian Service.

Answer of 1947 Annual Conference: Request to reopen the budget for 1947-48 granted. The revised budget was adopted as proposed, totaling $1,156,978.00.

Universal Compulsory Military Training

The following statement was adopted by Annual Conference on recommendation by the Standing Committee. The program of action was adopted as revised. The delegates were requested to read this paper in each local church.

UNIVERSAL COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING

A Statement by Standing Committee

The people of the United States have waited for many weeks for the report of the President's Advisory Commission on Universal Training. It was delivered to the President on May 29 and transmitted by him to the Senate on June 4.

It was generally known that prominent members of the commission were favorable to universal military training prior to their appointment. The report, therefore, which unanimously recommends that the government of the United States establish a system of universal compulsory military training, is not a surprise to the American public. The plan proposed by the commission follows closely the proposal of the army which had been developed in the main before the commission was created. It provides in general for the registration of young men as they reach the age of seventeen and for their induction into training between the ages of eighteen and twenty.

The system is to be administered by a commission of three men appointed by the President, two of whom are to be civilians. The staff, of course, must necessarily be drawn from the army and navy personnel. The first six months of the training period are to be devoted to basic military training and the following six months to what is called "optional training." These options, however, are nevertheless compulsory and have a distinctly military objective. The system therefore provides for a minimum of twelve months' training and a maximum of several years as determined by the chosen options.

The report of the commission will certainly be followed by the introduction of a bill in Congress designed to establish a system of training in harmony with the recommendations of the commission. The President and his cabinet, the army and navy staffs, and the American Legion are pressing for early consideration by Congress. The entire plan has been preceded by months of propaganda calculated to win public favor. There is reason to believe that the so-called "American-Russian crisis" is being deliberately exaggerated as pressure on the universal training issue. Our relations with Russia probably have not deteriorated during the last twelve months so drastically as reported by the radio, the press, and certain government authorities. The American people need to be aware of the professional propagandist with which our military forces are amply supplied.

The system of training proposed by the President's commission is ably defended in the report. It would lead the American people to accept the system as the very essence of democracy because it is universal, as distinctly American because it is assumed that it will be endorsed by the majority of the people, and as a definite advance in our system of moral and citizenship education.

We need to be alert to the following implications of the system:

1. It entrusts annually to the care of the armed forces of the country the lives and the education of about 1,000,000 young men between the ages of eighteen and twenty years. These men will be subject for a period of twelve months to rigid military discipline and training and to such indoctrination as the army and navy may choose to undertake. It is difficult to understand how such an experience can be regarded as preparation for the life of freedom under a democratic pattern of society and in a world at peace.

2. The commission report admits that some military experts are demanding training "which teaches hatred and seeks to instill lust for killing and emphasizes the most brutal means of destruction" but declares such training to be "sadistic" in peacetime. The report insists that "training in citizenship" must be a component part of the program. We can be assured that once the system is legally established the content of the program will ultimately correspond to the wishes of military authorities. There is a terrible implication in the plea for "citizenship training." It is an admission that a free nation can no longer manage its system of public education as regards educational objectives. It is also evident that the report visualizes a new type of citizen—a citizen whose mind is definitely militarized.

3. The proposed system implies that the young man who chooses to go on with his college education after six months of basic training will by necessity be compelled to choose a college where R.O.T.C. units are maintained. This would remove young men from our own colleges in their freshman and perhaps their sophomore years.

4. The plan of training for the conscientious objector in work of national importance is not revealed in the report. It is known, however, that some authorities will demand that this training be under government control and that the services of such men be in tax-supported institutions of the state. This implies that the church will have no part in such training. If a more liberal policy is followed, then the church may be expected to provide comparable training and service for her young men of military-training age.

5. The claim of the report that the proposal will provide a commendable system of character education is confronted by hundreds of years of experience and evidence to the contrary. An army camp has never yet proved to be an institution of high moral education. The claims of the Fort Knox experiment are irrelevant to the issue. That was a controlled experiment and even its results are of doubtful value.

6. The system is a definite threat to the principle of religious liberty and to the peace position of the Church of the Brethren in that it removes our young men from the influence of the home and the local church at a vital age in their lives and exposes them to the skillful

methods of indoctrination of the army and to the social pressures of an army camp which for immature youth are almost irresistible.

We could add many implications to this list but these are sufficient to impress us with the nature of the crisis before us. The burden of this statement to the Annual Conference is to bring to the church the gravity of the situation and to urge participation by our people in every effort calculated to defeat the measure when it comes to the Congress of the United States.

1948, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Advance Movement, 1948-49

It seems evident that the Advance movement, inaugurated by the Orlando Conference, has brought spiritual uplift to the church. It is impossible to measure the intangible values of the movement and no adequate report is possible on the tangible results. It is known, however, that more than five hundred congregations participated in the movement. Progress is reflected in additions to the membership of the church, in new home mission projects undertaken, in new congregations organized, in larger giving to the work of the church, in dedication of life to the cause of Christ, and in a renewed spirit of loyalty and devotion to the Kingdom of God.

It is especially important that we maintain the spiritual undergirding of this movement. The aftermath of war is revealed in the disintegration and decay which threatens the life of mankind. The spiritual malady of our times must be arrested. There is no easy panacea. The way of revival is the way of repentance and regeneration. "Repent ye therefore . . . that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). These are days in which "the church must be the church" and prophets must be prophets. We, therefore, resolve to make this year one of special emphasis on the great doctrines of the New Testament and its inspired teachings. We call upon the pastors and ministers of the church to carry out this decision in every pulpit of the brotherhood in order that our people may be more certainly established in the faith. "God gave unto us eternal life, and this life is in his Son" (1 John 5: 11). "Speak thou the things which befit sound doctrine" (Titus 2: 1).

First: We decide to extend the Advance movement for a second year and request members of the staff to undertake a more complete evaluation of the movement by the time of the 1949 Annual Conference.

Second: This Conference appeals to those congregations in the brotherhood which have not yet responded to the Advance movement to organize themselves at once for this great advance with Christ. We reaffirm the objectives and goals approved by the Orlando Conference for these churches and urge that they follow the plan recommended for getting started. [See the 1947 minutes, under "Advance With Christ—a Call to Action."]

We commend those churches which have co-operated in the movement and urge them to conserve all the gains which have been made and to seek with continuing zeal to advance in every aspect of our service to the world.

Third: Objectives and Goals for 1948-49

We recommend that the general objective for the second year of the movement be an *advance with Christ in a fuller commitment of life and resources to his Kingdom.*

We call upon our people—

1. To yield their lives to Christ in a personal commitment of time and talent to the work of the church. "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God" (Romans 12: 1). We call for one hundred young men and women to give their lives in special training and service to the Christian ministry, to the service program of the church, to teaching in our colleges, to service on the administrative staff of the church, and to service in foreign mission fields of the world. "How can they hear without a preacher? and how can they preach except they be sent?" (Romans 10: 14-15).

We call upon the adult membership for a rededication of themselves to the ideals of Christian vocation. We recommend a goal of at least twenty-five per cent of the members to such commitment during the year. Christians should discipline their lives in the interest of their maximum service to the world. They should think more of others and less of self. They should look upon their vocation or calling as sanctified unto God and glorified in his service. "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10: 31).

We urge our pastors and ministers to call their people to such commitment and to devise some plan for specific commitment of life to Christ.

2. To dedicate their financial resources to Christ in the spirit of good stewardship of the material gifts which are bestowed upon them by a generous heavenly Father. "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof" (Psalm 24:1). "Bring ye the whole tithe into the storehouse" (Malachi 3: 1). "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . . : For where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be also" (Matthew 6: 20, 21).

We commend to the church the Fellowship of Tithers and urge that we seek in all of our churches to secure one hundred per cent participation in giving to the church and an increase of at least fifteen per cent of our membership committed to share at least ten per cent of their income for the service of the church in this needy world.

Fourth: We recommend that the officers, boards, and committees of the church in all the districts of the brotherhood be urged to convene in special district gatherings or in convenient geographical units to formulate plans for this Advance program. We urge pastors, ministers, elders, superintendents, teachers, and workers of the local congregations to assume leadership in promoting this movement. "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white already unto harvest" (John 4: 35).

Amendment of the Charter of the General Mission Board Trustee in Iowa for the Church of the Brethren

Whereas, General Mission Board Trustee in Iowa for the Church of the Brethren is incorporated under the laws of the state of Iowa, and it is desirable that its charter be amended in substance as hereinafter provided:

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Trustees of the General Brotherhood Board—Church of the Brethren that the members, trustees, and officers of General Mission Board Trustee in Iowa for the Church of the Brethren be, and they hereby are, authorized to cause the charter of said Iowa corporation to be amended, in substance, as follows:

1. To change the name of said Iowa corporation to General Brotherhood Board Trustee in Iowa for the Church of the Brethren.
2. To provide that the members of said Iowa corporation shall be appointed from time to time by the Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren, or as it may designate.
3. To eliminate from the charter of said Iowa corporation any provisions which require, or seem to require, or permit the expenditure of the funds of said corporation by any agency other than Iowa corporation or outside of the state of Iowa, leaving the disposition of the funds of said Iowa corporation to the discretion of the trustees or officers of said Iowa corporation.

Be it further resolved, that the acts and doings of the members, trustees and officers of said Iowa corporation pursuant to this resolution be, and the same hereby are, approved.

Answer of 1948 Annual Conference: The amendment was ratified. The Annual Conference hereby designates the General Brotherhood Board to appoint the members of the Iowa corporation known as the General Mission Board Trustee in Iowa.

Amendment to the Pension Plan

In the judgment of the Pension Board it is desirable and necessary that the Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan of the Church of the Brethren be further amended. The Pension Board, therefore, as outlined in the pension plan, has adopted the following amendment, ad interim, and presents the amendment to Annual Conference of 1948 for ratification:

A. That sub-paragraph (d) of Section A of Article XIII be amended to read as follows:

(d) At any and all meetings of the Pension Board, a quorum shall consist of fifteen (15) of the members thereof; that any action taken, or proceedings had, by or in the name of the Pension Board at any such meeting at which a quorum is present, by affirmative vote of at least fifteen (15) of the members so present, as well as any action taken, or proceedings had, by or in the name of the Pension Board, in case of emergency, by written sanction or approval of any twenty (20) of the members of the Pension Board, without a formal meeting, shall be taken as, and shall be deemed to be, the action of the Pension Board, and shall be as effectual in all respects as if the entire membership of the said Pension Board had met and had affirmatively voted for or approved thereof. The Pension Board may adopt and shall be governed by such by-laws, rules, and regulations as may be adopted by it from time to time, not inconsistent with the said plan. The Pension Board may from time to time delegate its powers and duties in respect to the operation and administration of the pension plan, including its powers and duties in respect to the handling, investing, sale, or other disposition of its funds and assets, to committees, officers, or agents, selected from within or without the membership of the Pension Board. The action or decision of any such committee, officer, or agent, within the scope of the powers or duties so delegated, shall be deemed to be the action or decision of the Pension Board. The decision of the Pension Board as to all matters arising under the pension plan shall be final, and shall be binding on all parties.

B. That Section C of Article XIII be amended to read as follows:

Section C—Investments

All funds of the pension plan and the Pension Board shall be invested only upon the approval of the Pension Board or its duly authorized committee, officer, or agent. The Pension Board may designate one or more banks or trust companies selected by it, or may designate the General Brotherhood Board—Church of the Brethren, as the depository or custodian of the funds and assets of the pension plan and the Pension Board, and may delegate to such banks or trust companies or to said General Brotherhood Board—Church of the Brethren, such powers and authorities in regard to such funds and assets, and in regard to the handling, investing, sale, or other disposition thereof as the Pension Board may, from time to time, deem advisable and expedient.

Answer of 1948 Annual Conference: The amendment was ratified.

Note: For previous amendments to the pension plan see the minutes of the 1947 Conference, under "Amendments to the Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan." For later amendments see the minutes of the 1951 Conference, the query entitled "Amendments to the Pension Plan."

Bethany Hospital and Our Educational Institutions

Queries, 1947

STATEMENT OF GENERAL BROTHERHOOD BOARD

The General Brotherhood Board approves the recommendation of the Commission of Fifteen asking Annual Conference to appoint a committee to make an over-all study of Bethany Hospital and the educational institutions of the church.

PETITION OF BETHANY HOSPITAL TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The General Brotherhood Board passes the following petition from Bethany Hospital to Annual Conference:

WHAT ANNUAL CONFERENCE HAS ALREADY SAID AND DONE

In 1926 a Conference committee, in concluding a five-year study of hospital work, recommended seven conditions for approving hospitals to be operated under the auspices of the Church of the Brethren.

This committee also reported that it had made a careful survey of the work of Bethany Hospital and of its plans for future development. Then it said, "These plans meet the above conditions and we therefore approve them." At the conclusion of the report, the committee commented, "The trinity of church, school, and hospital will complete the church's educational program, and the training of her youth can be done under her own supervision."

In 1927 the same committee made the following statement: "With the foregoing principles established; with the nucleus of a good modern hospital under Brethren auspices already undertaken, and an increasing number of our young people taking up nursing and medical work, our church is finding a new field of service."

The careful reading of the reports of this committee over the years indicates that there has been a strong interest in nursing education. This interest has continued to the present. This is seen in the response to the training school at Bethany Hospital while it was being operated, and in the many inquiries which are continually coming from young women of our church who would like to have an opportunity to pursue their nursing education under Brethren auspices.

PRESENT URGENT NEEDS

Material Equipment Needed Immediately

There is a pressing need for storage space, serving rooms, an elevator, and laundry, dietary, heating, and sterilizing equipment, as well as minor facilities which are required in a growing institution.

Reopening the Training School for Nurses

1. The need for nursing education under the guidance of Brethren is very important for many reasons, a few of which may here be named:

(1) To make available nursing education opportunities for our young women, where Brethren ethical standards and ideals shall be maintained and taught.

(2) To supply nurses whose chief ambition will be to promote the Brethren interpretation of Christianity—in our own hospital, on mission fields, in the general extension work of the church, and in local communities, churches, and homes.

(3) To maintain a good Christian morale to take care of the sick in our own hospital.

2. Standardization requirements for a nursing education school make it necessary to have (a) a fully approved faculty, (b) standard laboratory facilities, (c) an acceptable library, (d) an adequate modern nurses' home, (e) affiliation for offering subjects which cannot be made available in hospitals other than very large institutions.

THE PETITION TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Now, therefore, in view of the desirability of maintaining the high standards which have already been approved by Conference, established in Bethany Hospital, and recognized by hospital authorities; and in view of the urgent need of re-establishing a standard nursing education school to be operated under the auspices of the Church of the Brethren, the trustees of Bethany Hospital, through the General Brotherhood Board, petition Annual Conference, convening at Orlando, Florida, in 1947 for the privilege of soliciting the necessary funds for the equipment and construction work named above, including a nurses' home: said solicitation to begin in the various areas as soon after Annual Conference as may be approved by the Conference and to be conducted in co-operation with other institutions and organizations involved in the several territories. (Explanatory note: The total sum for these projects should not exceed $300,000 if construction work were done under present conditions.)

Answer of 1947 Annual Conference: Referred to a committee appointed to make an over-all study of Bethany Hospital and the educational institutions of the church. In the meantime Bethany Hospital is granted the privilege of giving publicity to her immediate needs, so that interested persons may make contributions. Committee: I. V. Funderburgh, convener, A. G. Breidenstine, Hylton Harman, Moyne Landis, J. W. Lear, DeWitt L. Miller, Ross D. Murphy, Virgil Stinebaugh, Harry K. Zeller, Jr.

Report of the Commission of Nine, 1948

PART I. BETHANY HOSPITAL

The commission recognizes that the healing arts are central in the Christian message. We believe that the church has a responsibility to encourage the support of healing institutions. This encouragement has been evidenced by many devoted members of the Church of the Brethren in the establishment and support of Bethany Hospital as an independent healing institution.

The commission recognizes that the Annual Conference decision at Orlando granted to Bethany Hospital "the privilege to give publicity to her immediate needs, so that interested persons may make contributions." This privilege is interpreted to mean that Bethany Hospital is granted permission to publicize the need for storage space, serving rooms, an elevator, and laundry, dietary, heating, and sterilizing equipment. Since the Annual Conference has previously sought to guard the church from an every-member solicitation for the financial needs of the hospital, the commission does not understand this decision as authorizing or permitting Bethany Hospital to organize a solicitation among the churches.

Furthermore, the commission does not consider it to be the prerogative of any committee of the Church of the Brethren to instruct a private and independent institution, even though held in trust for the church, regarding the nature and scope of its service and building program. However, the church has the right to say when, if at all, such institutions may solicit the brotherhood for funds.

After careful consideration, the commission believes it would be unwise at this time to initiate a solicitation for funds which would lead to the establishment of a nurses' training school in connection with Bethany Hospital.

The commission recommends that the Ministry and Home Mission Commission through its department of Ministry to Those in the Healing Arts provide for the spiritual welfare of those preparing for service in these fields by:

(1) Selecting approved hospitals and schools in Brethren centers, and

(2) By instituting pastoral care and counseling service under the direction of the pastors of local churches.

(3) By instructing the Commission of Nine to work out a program with the officials of Bethany Hospital whereby the needs of the hospital and the establishment of a nurses' training school may be realized; such program to be brought back to Annual Conference next year, for its consideration.

PART II. THE COLLEGES

The commission recognizes the important place which education has in our church heritage and tradition. The church has evidenced its belief in education as a means of developing Christian leadership and as a primary method in perpetuating our ideals. Especially in this period of expanded interest in higher education and consequently the need for enlarged facilities, the church must maintain its vital obligations to institutions of higher learning. The church must continue to support her colleges by moral and spiritual undergirding as well as by granting to the colleges financial assistance. We encourage the church at every level of activity to support the program of higher education.

The original purpose of American colleges, educating men for the ministry, is now expanded to include enlistment and training for all types of Christian service, including lay leadership. The colleges should serve the churches to maintain spiritual emphases in home and church as well as in community life. The college should cultivate such a religious atmosphere on the campus that students will feel a basic loyalty to the church and its ideals. The responsibility for accomplishing these functions shall rest with the officers of the administration and every member of the faculty of the college.

A. College-Church Relationships

1. General promotion

We believe that a definite share of the responsibility for the support and promotion of our college program should be readily and fully assumed by the church.

a. We feel that at brotherhood, regional, and district meetings opportunity should be provided for the presentation of the cause of Christian higher education.

b. We feel that each local church should keep the cause of the colleges before her members by such methods as:

(1) Observing College Day.

(2) Supporting a continuous program to impress members with the important place of the college in the life of the church and acquaint young people with the values accruing from attending Brethren colleges.

(3) Using faculty members as guest speakers, student deputations and musical groups, and such other extension services as the college may make available.

(4) Encouraging local alumni to be active in keeping the claims of the college before the church constituency.

(5) Urging all members to assume responsibility for publicizing the merits of our colleges to their non-Brethren friends.

2. Financial promotion

a. Regarding annual contributions for current expenses it is the judgment of the commission that:

(1) The colleges may properly continue to request that a nominal sum of money be included in the Brotherhood Budget to meet their current expenses since such a procedure establishes a necessary relationship between the whole church and all of the colleges.

(2) Because of the limited regional and district funds *per se* the colleges may not properly ask for budgetary consideration at these organizational levels, with the exception of where the institution is owned and controlled by the district.

(3) Local churches should be urged to support the colleges in a regular and consistent manner to be determined by the officials of the congregation. It is the feeling of the commission that contributions to the college should pass through the hands of the local church treasurer. Those churches which have budgets are urged to include an annual appropriation for the colleges.

b. Regarding periodic solicitations for capital funds it is the judgment of the commission that—

Since local church giving annually to the brotherhood program at the local and national levels is in excess of $4,000,000; and

Since it is estimated that the local congregations in the next five years will be engaged in building projects to an expenditure in excess of $10,000,000; and

Since educational institutions have tentative plans for building and expansion programs in the next decade totaling approximately $5,000,000:

(1) There is serious need for long-range planning and co-ordination in order that it may be within the reasonable ability of the church to finance and maintain the projects undertaken. The multiplicity and scope of these fund-raising activities make it necessary that the institutions be required to clear all major fund-raising projects through the General Brotherhood Board.

(2) In order to insure proper co-ordination of financial efforts it is advisable that those institutions planning financial campaigns make clearance first with the regional council, and secondly with the district board and the local church board.

B. What the Church May Expect of the College

It is the judgment of the commission that the bases upon which each college may expect the continued interest and support of the church are as follows:

1. Achieve a distinctive role in the total education program of the church and occupy a strategic position in its potential service to the church in the years ahead. The General Brotherhood Board shall determine when the colleges are meeting these conditions upon the basis of such factors as the size of the constituency, the nature of the clientele, and the location with respect to competing institutions,
2. Maintain acceptable accreditation standards, and
3. Evidence a financial program and outlook which warrants the support and wins the confidence of potential contributors.

The commission is interested in maintaining and augmenting the relationship between the church and her educational institutions. The church needs the contribution her educational institutions can make in guiding and training her youth for Christian service. On the other hand, the schools need the moral and financial support of the church, as well as her guiding influence.

PART III. THE SEMINARY

It is the judgment of the commission that the demerits of having Bethany Biblical Seminary in Chicago are more than offset by the many advantages and values of being located in the seminary center of America and in its accessibility to the entire brotherhood.

It is suggested that Bethany Biblical Seminary in co-operation with the colleges continue to study and evaluate the role of the Training School in relation to the best interests of the church.

The commission encourages Bethany Biblical Seminary to work co-operatively with the Ministry and Home Mission Commission for a larger program of inspiration and training of young people for full-time Christian service with the church. This program should be initiated and promoted in the local congregation.

We commend the spirit of fellowship and the mutual approach to the common problems of Christian education which has grown between Bethany Biblical Seminary and the colleges. We urge that these institutions continue this fellowship to make articulate the challenge to Christian service and to aid young men in maturing their plans for lifework in the ministry.

We are encouraged by the willingness of the church to finance the contemplated plans for expansion; we believe that due consideration should be given to the reasonable ability of the church to maintain permanently an enlarged seminary program.

Answer of 1948 Annual Conference: Report accepted as amended.

NOTE: The adoption of Part I of this report calls for a future report by the Commission of Nine on Bethany Hospital. See the minutes of the 1949 Conference, under "Bethany Hospital."

Brotherhood Fund, 1949-50

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference through Standing Committee the adoption of the following Brotherhood Budget for 1949-50:

Bethany Biblical Seminary		$ 55,000.00
Brethren Service Commission		403,000.00
Christian Education Commission		
General program	$86,000.00	
College appropriation	45,000.00	131,000.00
Finance Commission		20,500.00
Foreign Mission Commission		286,390.00*
General Departments—financial promotion, visual education, field program, Gospel Messenger, European office, Administration		130,000.00
Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund		30,000.00
Ministry and Home Mission Commission		175,000.00
Reserve Fund		11,610.00
		1,242,500.00
Federal Council (payable from funds so designated)		1,500.00
		$1,244,000.00

* The Foreign Mission Commission anticipates spending $344,265 of which $57,875 is income expected from bequests and interest on endowments.

Answer of 1948 Annual Conference: The budget was adopted.

NOTE: This budget was revised by the 1949 Conference; see the 1949 query entitled "Revised Brotherhood Fund, 1949-50."

Change of Historical Commission

Since the report of the Commission of Fifteen adopted in the 1946 and 1947 Annual Conference does not recognize the Historical Commission and since the 1947 Annual Conference approved a budget of $1,000 for the Historical Commission under the Commission of Christian Education, the General Brotherhood Board recommends that the present Historical Commission be discontinued and that its functions be carried by a historical committee appointed by and related to the Christian Education Commission.

Answer of 1948 Annual Conference: The recommendation was adopted.

Help for Ministerial and Other Students

Query, 1947

Since young men who are studying for the ministry at Bethany Biblical Seminary are training to serve the brotherhood, and since these young men need to use their time to the best advantage while they are in school;

We, the board of directors of the District of Northern California, petition the Annual Conference of 1947, through the district conference of Northern California, to instruct the General Brotherhood Board to make more adequate provisions for loans and help to students in Bethany Biblical Seminary.

W. Russell Burriss, Secretary

Answer of district meeting: Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of 1947 Annual Conference: Referred through the General Brotherhood Board to the Christian Education and the Ministry and Home Mission commissions for study and report next year. It is suggested that they broaden their study to include both ministerial and other students preparing for Christian service, as well as other institutions.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1948

The General Brotherhood Board has considered the matter of increased aid to students at Bethany Biblical Seminary and is encouraging increases in loan funds as well as fuller use of those funds now available for this purpose. All student loans are now made under uniform policies and procedures set up by the board.

The current budget reflects an increase of $2,000 in aid to Bethany students above the amount granted in the previous year.

Answer of 1948 Annual Conference: Report accepted.

Magazines Advertising Liquors

To the district meeting of the Church of the Brethren of Southern Ohio, assembled in the Pleasant Hill church, April 24, 1948, we the members of the Brookville church petition Annual Meeting through district meeting—

To request the members of the Church of the Brethren to withdraw subscriptions from all magazines advertising liquors and intoxicating beverages, as a helpful means of defeating the distraction of our youth.

And, further, that Annual Meeting advise the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America of its action requesting that the Council ask all participating denominations with the Council to take similar action in respect to this matter.

Paul Fidler, Church Clerk

Answer of district meeting: Approved and passed on to Annual Conference.

J. H. Good, Secretary

Answer of 1948 Annual Conference: The general content of this query was heartily endorsed and the following recommendations were approved:

1. That our members voice a vigorous protest to the publishers of magazines and newspapers carrying advertisments of alcoholic beverages; the following ways are suggested:

a. Letters of protest to the publishers.

b. Removing such advertisements and returning them to the publishers stating the reasons for their return.

c. In instances where advertisements of alcoholic beverages and useful commodities appear on the same sheet, this sheet be sent to the advertisers of the useful commodities stating that the objectionable advertisements render their own less effective.

2. That so far as possible our members cancel their subscriptions to periodicals carrying advertisements of alcoholic beverages, and subscribe to those less objectionable.

3. That we urge our members to protest to the management of radio stations which carry programs advertising alcoholic beverages.

4. That we request our representatives to the Federal Council of Churches to convey the action of this Conference to the Council, requesting that it urge all participating denominations to take similar action.

Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund

The trustees of the Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan (the Pension Board) recommend to Annual Conference through Standing

Committee that Conference rescind the action of 1945 on 2-b of the query entitled "Administration of the Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund," which was:

"b. To place yearly the balance of the Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund which is left after the needs of (a) have been cared for, into the supplementary fund of the Pension Board in order that the earned pension of members of the plan who have served the church for many years, but who will not on account of age receive sufficient pension upon retirement to care for their needs, be supplemented according to the decisions that might be reached by the Pension Board," and also authorize that in the future any such unused balances shall be cumulative.

Answer of 1948 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Mission Points in Europe

Query, 1947

We, the Sacramento Suburban church, petition Annual Conference, through district conference of Northern California, to establish mission points in Poland and other parts of Europe where our relief work and heifer projects have been centered, with the purpose in mind of teaching the viewpoint of the Brethren way of life, and winning souls for Christ.

Ruth Marriott, Clerk

Answer of district meeting: Passed to Annual Conference, 1947.

Answer of 1947 Annual Conference: Referred to the General Brotherhood Board.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1948

The General Brotherhood Board has carefully considered the question of opening a mission in Poland and/or other parts of Europe. We know the poverty, the loneliness, and the discouragement of Protestant Christians in Europe and would gladly see the church help to the extent of her ability. But European conditions are extremely unsettled and may remain so for some time.

Furthermore, your Foreign Mission Commission is just opening a station in South America and we find that in every field prices have risen as sharply as in the homeland. We are now drawing heavily on our reserves to finance our present undertaking. We have neither the finances nor the personnel to open another institutional mission such as we now have in India, China, and Africa.

Since the Brethren Service Commission has representatives in various parts of Europe, we recommend that they both continue to exercise whatever Christian influence they can, co-operating with local agencies in favorable European centers, and continue to explore the possibilities of a new type of non-institutional mission in the future.

Answer of 1948 Annual Conference: Report accepted.

Position and Practices of the Church of the Brethren in Relation to War

Queries, 1948

ALTERNATIVE SERVICE

We petition Annual Conference assembled at Colorado Springs, June 15-20, 1948, to go on record as opposing registration for conscription; but favor registration with the church for alternative service, entirely under church control. Further, we request Annual Conference to authorize the agency and method to put this stand into immediate action.

C. C. Cripe, Writing Clerk
(District of Northern Indiana
special meeting, May 1, 1948)

CHRISTIAN POSITION ON REGISTRATION

The District of Southern Ohio, assembled in special district conference at the Pleasant Hill church on May 8, 1948, petitions Annual Conference to adopt the following statement as the official position of the Church of the Brethren.

Some of our Brethren, both ministers and laymen, have expressed their intention to refuse to register with the government for military service in the event of the passage of a draft law.

We recognize this position as one which is consistent with the spirit and teachings of Jesus Christ.

We commend and encourage those who have been led to take this stand and pledge to them the support and the sympathy of the church.

J. H. Good, Secretary

Answer of the 1948 Annual Conference: The Conference regarded the following statement from the General Brotherhood Board and the Standing Committee, adopted as revised, as the answer to these queries, and authorized the General Brotherhood Board to initiate and carry forward the actions implied in this paper.

STATEMENT ON POSITION AND PRACTICES OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN IN RELATION TO WAR

The Church of the Brethren views with deep concern current proposals to commit our nation to a permanent peacetime policy of military conscription through a revival of selective service or the enactment of universal military training or both. Fearing that these preparations for war will hasten the coming of actual war, the church finds it necessary to state again its convictions about war, preparations for war, military service, and the attitudes which the church commends to its members, particularly those directly affected by conscription.

I. THE CHURCH AND WAR

The Church of the Brethren, since its beginning in 1708, has repeatedly declared its position against war. Our understanding of the life and teachings of Christ as revealed in the New Testament led our Annual Conference in 1934 to resolve: "All war is sin. We, therefore, cannot encourage, engage in, or willingly profit from armed conflict at home or abroad. We cannot, in the event of war, accept military service or support the military machine in any capacity." This conviction which we reaffirm in 1948 grew out of such teachings of Christ as the following: "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you" (Matthew 5: 44).

II. THE CHURCH AND CONSCIENCE

The church has stood likewise for the principle of freedom of worship and freedom of conscience. We cannot, therefore, concede to the state the authority to conscript its citizens for military training or military service against their religious convictions. The church itself respects the right of individual conscience within its membership and has never set up an authoritative creed. Instead, it accepts the entire New Testament as its rule of faith and practice and seeks to lead its members to comprehend and accept for themselves the mind of Christ as the guide for their conviction and conduct.

We seek no special privilege from our government. What we seek for ourselves, we seek for all—the right of individual conscience, which no governmental authority can abrogate. As Peter said, "We must obey God rather than man" (Acts 5: 29).

III. THE CHURCH AND SPIRITUAL NURTURE

The Church of the Brethren seeks by processes of education and spiritual nurture to help its members develop within themselves a spirit of peace and an attitude of nonviolence as an outgrowth of deep religious conviction. We endeavor through the services of the church, our Sunday and weekday educational program, our colleges and seminary, our preaching ministry, our summer camp activities, our personal counseling, and our continuing and widespread ministry in relief and rehabilitation to lead individuals into such intimate contact with Jesus, our Lord, that they will commit themselves to him and the manner of life which he taught and exemplified. We believe that such commitment leads to the way of love and nonviolence as a central principle of Christian conduct.

We recognize that there are varying degrees of achievement of this sought-for result in individuals and churches, but we seek to maintain a deep and growing fellowship among ourselves and between ourselves and our Master in order that we might increasingly know his purposes and do his will.

IV. The Church and Citizenship

We believe that our supreme citizenship is in the Kingdom of God, but we undertake to render constructive and creative service in the existing state. We exercise the right of suffrage and encourage our members to regard public office as an opportunity to work for good government in keeping with our Brethren values. In a Christian democracy we must assume responsibility for helping to create an intelligent and Christian public opinion which will result in legislation in harmony with the eternal laws of God. As Christian citizens we consider it our duty to obey all civil laws which do not violate these higher laws. We seek, however, to go beyond the demands of law, giving time, effort, life, and property in a ministry to human needs without regard to race, creed, or nationality. We attempt to reconcile conflicting persons and groups, leading them toward fuller human brotherhood under a common divine allegiance.

V. The Church and Conscription

Inasmuch as the church believes in the right of individual conscience, it recognizes that various positions on war and military service will be taken by its members. Some feel compelled by their Christian convictions to refuse to register with the government under a draft act. Some believe it to be their Christian obligation to render full or limited military service. Others feel it to be their Christian duty to register with the government as conscientious objectors to military training or service and to express their willingness to engage in constructive civilian service.

The church seeks to maintain a fellowship of all who sincerely follow the guidance of conscience. It does, however, recommend that as a matter of Christian conviction and practice, its membership support the historic position of the church, namely—nonparticipation in military training and service and the war system in general. The church pledges its full moral strength and offers spiritual nurture and a fellowship of prayer and of material aid to all who struggle and suffer for a fuller understanding of, and obedience to, the divine will.

VI. The Church and Alternative Service

The Church of the Brethren takes the position that our members cannot consistently accept any service within the military forces or under military supervision. We commend to them instead a constructive alternative service under the direction of the church or some other civilian agency. We recognize our obligation to provide facilities for such service for those who wish it. The church stands ready to establish administer, and finance to the extent of its resources, projects for such services under church control or in co-operation with local, state, federal and international civilian agencies. The church desires and will make every effort to secure recognition, as fulfilling the requirements for service to the nation, any service already being rendered in existing agencies or for service offered on a voluntary basis. For those conscientiously opposed to registration or any co-operation with a system of conscription we particularly commend such voluntary service.

VII. The Church and Its Continuing Witness

The Church of the Brethren has always believed that war is contrary to the will of God and, in its history of nearly two and one-half centuries, has come to understand more clearly the tremendous evil which war brings upon human beings and upon society. The church is, therefore, increasingly committing itself to the prevention of war in addition to its historical position of refusing to participate in war. In recent decades the church has become more aware of the necessity for careful instruction and guidance for its members on these questions. It has sought more and more diligently for practical and effective means whereby its members can offer constructive evidence of their belief that good citizens in a good society must seek a better way than war to resolve international conflict.

The church believes that there is room for further growth in the understanding of these questions and in ways of expressing these convictions in practical action. This statement embodies the stage of thought and action which the church has thus far achieved. It undertakes a continuing and growing witness and pledges itself to be receptive to new truth and better modes of expression as these are brought to its attention.

Special Statement from Brethren Youth

(Recommendation As to the Establishment of Brethren Volunteer Service)

We, a group of young people at the 1948 Annual Conference, because of a concern for Brethren youth, in the event of conscription, wish to present to the delegate body this plan for immediate action.

We plead for a plan of definite action to implement the general statement of the Conference on the position and practices of the Church of the Brethren in relation to war.

2. We recommend that a broad plan of volunteer service be instituted for Brethren, especially those of conscription age, at once. We further recommend that this plan carry over into any crisis period as the core of our alternative service program. We are willing and anxious to co-operate with the General Brotherhood Board in constructing such a plan.

3. Finally, we ask for the immediate and continuing support of the entire brotherhood in the carrying out and financing of such a program.

Answer of 1948 Annual Conference: The Conference voted that this paper from the youth be adopted and that we authorize the General Brotherhood Board to implement it. Further, that the youth cabinet have a voice in the implementing of this program.

Place and Time of Annual Conference

Queries, 1947

A PERMANENT LOCATION FOR CONFERENCE

We, the Huntingdon Church of the Brethren, petition Annual Conference through district meeting of Middle Pennsylvania to consider the advisability of deciding upon a suitable permanent location for the meeting of Annual Conference. J. Clyde Stayer, Clerk

Action of district conference: Passed to Annual Conference.

STUDY OF DATES FOR CONFERENCE

Whereas, there appears to be a widespread conviction that a more convenient time could be found for the holding of our Annual Conference, we, the Harrisonburg congregation, respectfully ask Annual Conference of 1947, through the district conference of Northern Virginia, to authorize some committee to make a study of this matter with a view of selecting dates which may be more generally satisfactory.

Blanche D. Huffman, Clerk

Action of district conference: Passed to Annual Conference.

Answer of 1947 Annual Conference: Referred to the General Brotherhood Board for study and report next year.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1948

The General Brotherhood Board has secured the reactions of a representative group of church leaders throughout the Brotherhood in connection with its study on possible changes in time and place of Annual Conference and recommends to Annual Conference that the closing Sunday of Conference be the third Sunday of June and that the present system of rotation among regions be continued.

Answer of 1948 Annual Conference: Recommendations adopted.

Revision of Brotherhood Fund, 1948-49

The following is the 1948-49 budget as approved by Annual Conference of 1947:

Bethany Biblical Seminary		$ 50,000.00
Brethren Service Commission		433,432.00
Christian Education Commission		
General program	$75,000.00	
College appropriation	45,000.00	120,000.00
Field Program		26,000.00
Finance Commission		17,990.00
Foreign Mission Commission		261,750.00
General Administration, Promotion, and Visual Education		60,258.00
Gospel Messenger Subsidy		14,070.00

Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund	30,000.00
Ministry and Home Mission Commission	146,000.00
	1,159,500.00
Federal Council of Churches (payable from funds so designated)	1,500.00
	1,161,000.00
Surplus Advance Fund	200,000.00*
Total	$1,361,000.00

* Surplus Advance Fund to be divided equally between missions and Brethren Service with the missions share to be further divided between home and foreign missions in the same ratio as each shares in the regular budget.

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference the reopening of the 1948-49 Brotherhood Budget and presents the following askings:

Bethany Biblical Seminary		$ 50,000.00
Brethren Service Commission		433,432.00*
Christian Education Commission		
General program	$75,000.00	
College appropriation	45,000.00	120,000.00
Finance Commission		17,990.00
Foreign Mission Commission		261,750.00†
General Departments—financial promotion, visual education, field program, Gospel Messenger, European office, administration		100,328.00
Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund		30,000.00
Ministry and Home Mission Commission		146,000.00
		1,159,500.00
Federal Council of Churches (payable from funds so designated)		1,500.00
		1,161,000.00
Surplus Advance Fund		200,000.00‡
Total		$1,361.000.00

* The Brethren Service Commission anticipates spending $545,140, of which $48,656 is expected from outside sources and $63,052 from the Surplus Advance Fund.

† The Foreign Mission Commission anticipates spending $333,228, of which $61,478 includes bequests and interest on endowments, $10,000 from the Surplus Advance Fund.

‡ The General Brotherhood Board recommends that $28,010 be a special appropriation as a prior claim against the Surplus Advance Fund for:

Bethany Biblical Seminary	$ 5,000.00
Finance Commission	3,510.00
General Departments	19,500.00

and that anything beyond that be divided in the manner recommended by the 1947 Annual Conference.

Answer of 1948 Annual Conference: The recommendation to reopen the budget was accepted and the revised askings were adopted.

Statement to the World Council Assembly

Standing Committee recommends to the Conference that we authorize a statement on behalf of the Church of the Brethren to the First Assembly of the World Council of Churches assembled in Amsterdam, Holland, August 22 to September 4, 1948, and to the World Pacifist Conference to be held in India in January 1949. Also that the General Brotherhood Board be asked to prepare these statements.

Answer of 1948 Annual Conference: Request granted.

1949, Ocean Grove, New Jersey

Advance Movement

ADVANCE WITH CHRIST

Action of Annual Conference, 1948

We decide to extend the Advance movement for a second year and request members of the staff to undertake a more complete evaluation of the movement by the time of the 1949 Annual Conference.

Report of Progress, 1949

A study is in process which will be in complete form for presentation at the Ocean Grove Conference.

The staff committee on Advance sent a questionnaire to all local churches in the spring of 1949 seeking information on the progress that had been achieved during the year through the Advance emphasis. Only about one fifth of our churches responded to this questionnaire, but the returns were scattered throughout the Brotherhood and all the districts. It was encouraging to note that according to these replies seventeen per cent of the membership of the church had rededicated their lives during the past months, that sixty-four per cent of the members were giving and that eleven per cent had increased their giving with several thousand new tithers. There was a strong feeling that the Advance should continue for another year.

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Report accepted.

Bethany Hospital

Report of the Commission of Nine, 1949

NOTE: See the 1948 minutes, under "Bethany Hospital and Our Educational Institutions," for the steps leading up to this report.

In accordance with the action of the Colorado Springs Annual Conference the Commission of Nine has continued to study the request of Bethany Hospital for approval by the Annual Conference for the establishment of nurses' training. The commission has met jointly with the board of trustees of Bethany Hospital and has held several separate sessions. We recognize in the decision of the Annual Conference at Colorado Springs a desire on the part of some persons that the brotherhood attempt a program of nurses' training. The commission cannot give its support in approving this proposal at this time. Therefore, we respectfully urge the Annual Conference at Ocean Grove to relieve us of our responsibility and to come to a decision on the matter of nurses' training for Bethany Hospital after hearing from the hospital officials directly concerning the planning goals and fiscal needs of the nurses' training program.

Report of the Trustees of Bethany Hospital, 1949

In keeping with the decision of the Colorado Springs Conference of 1948, representatives of the hospital met with the secretary of the Commission of Nine. It was agreed that the hospital make a study of the trends in nursing education and submit it for the consideration of both groups. Such a study was made and discussed in joint session. Concurrent with the action of the commission we make the following report:

The primary factors involved in establishing a nursing school in connection with Bethany Hospital are:

I. Curriculum and faculty
II. Affiliation with other hospitals and educational institutions
III. Additional physical property and equipment

The necessary curriculum and faculty are attainable. Certain staff members are qualified to give instruction. The cost of additional personnel would not be great.

Affiliation with other hospitals for special subjects such as psychiatry and pediatrics is practiced by many hospitals. This same method could be followed by Bethany. Arrangements can be worked out with our own colleges and with educational institutions in Chicago to provide instruction in the sciences and related subjects.

A nurses' home, including classroom facilities, library, etc., would cost $275,000 at present price levels. If standards should eventually be raised requiring a larger daily census than fifty, the present building would have to be enlarged. Its foundations were constructed to carry two additional floors.

The following suggestions are proposed for the consideration of Annual Conference:

I. With Respect to Methods of Procedure

1. That all general solicitation for capital funds among members of the Church of the Brethren shall proceed as approved by the Annual Conference and in co-operation with the Brotherhood Board.

2. That all capital funds and assets shall continue to be held by the trustees of Bethany Hospital in trust for the Church of the Brethren, or in such manner as may be decided by Annual Conference.

3. That current operations shall be paid for in so far as possible from current income, but interested groups or members of the Church of the Brethren may contribute to the various needs of the hospital.

4. That the hospital shall keep the church informed concerning its activities and needs through bulletins, letters, and reports to Annual Conference.

II. With Respect to a Nursing School

1. Will Annual Conference approve the development of a nursing school at Bethany Hospital to be operated under the auspices of the Church of the Brethren?

2. Will Annual Conference approve the raising of funds over a period of five years to provide the necessary facilities to operate an accredited nursing school at Bethany Hospital? (The trustees of the hospital suggest that in view of the present financial situation in the church no general solicitation of funds for the nurses' home be made during the current fiscal year, but that all continue to pray that God's will may be done.)

3. Will Annual Conference approve the opening of a nursing school at Bethany Hospital in the fall of 1955 or whenever nursing school standards shall have been met?

Trustees of Bethany Hospital

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Received the report of the Commission of Nine and relieved them of their responsibility. The report of the trustees of Bethany Hospital was then considered and adopted. The matter was referred, for further consideration as to execution, to the General Brotherhood Board.

NOTE: See the minutes of the 1950 Conference, under the query entitled "Bethany Hospital Relationships," for a study of the relationships of Bethany Hospital to the Church of the Brethren.

Brethren Emphasis for 1949-50

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference through Standing Committee the program of Advance as outlined in the following report.

For some time there has been among many Christian men and women a great feeling of concern regarding the religious life of Protestantism in America. This, we believe, has grown in part from a deep feeling of discontent with the slow progress of the many interests of the Kingdom, and in part from the complacency and indifference of many nominal Christians. The confusion of our times, the smothering influence of luxury and the all-pervading spirit of secularism have apparently sapped the spiritual life of many church members. In all too many cases our churches accept the standards of a non-Christian society with "calm, consenting indifference."

At the same time there are many who are discontented because of a sense of futility and of frustration, and because of a lack of victory and peace. Many seem groping for that which lies just beyond their grasp, something that would give their lives meaning, and a sense of significance. This inability to lay hold on the reality they seek leaves many with a feeling of emptiness—sometimes even of despair.

All this stands in sharp contrast to the gifts that God so freely offers to all and which lie within our grasp. Jesus offers the water of life which satisfies the deepest thirst. Our deepest longings can be fulfilled in him. He offers victory and joy through faith in him. His adequacy is unquestioned. The world awaits the effective presentation of the Gospel of Peace.

The Advance movement which emerged at our Annual Conference at Orlando, Florida, sprang spontaneously from various sources among those who had “concerns” for the welfare of the Kingdom. They saw that if the great world-wide program of the church was to succeed we would have to undergird it with Christian devotion on the part of the whole church. It was evident that unless the spirit of personal commitment, of evangelism, and of enlightenment on social issues should provide the dynamic, the program of the church would fail.

As a result a call for Advance was sounded. Specific goals were set and a program for their attainment was adopted. These were enthusiastically accepted by the Standing Committee and by the General Conference. For two years now this has served as a watchword to call the church to action. There is evidence here and there that the effort has yielded results and has been of help in the program of the church.

But as of today:

(1) The Advance can hardly be regarded as the widespread ground swell movement anticipated by some.

(2) There is some doubt as to how long it will be effective and much questioning as to what turn we should next take.

(3) Our present financial situation makes it clear that our planning is going ahead of the readiness and enthusiasm of the people to support it. This gives us great and immediate concern.

(4) It is also surmised by many that even if we were successful in securing funds we would still fall short in other respects of fulfilling the strong hungers and hopes out of which the movement was born.

(5) There is no indication that many of the present elements in the program are misguided or that they should be discontinued. The relative emphasis on various aspects of our program, however, may need to be changed.

(6) It is clear that all along the line there is a desire to find our way into a richer experience with God, and that the program should find deeper motivation.

There is no wish to shift the emphasis in the church from an active program of church extension and of social action to one of other-worldly mysticism which ignores the welfare of our fellow men. It is not the purpose to attempt to determine the relative importance of various aspects of our church program. We would, however, like to see the church undergird her far-reaching program of world outreach with religious devotion that does not depend primarily upon emergency appeals for action, but that acts and moves from deep religious motives. Sustained sacrificial service in the Kingdom of God can be assured only when men feel an accountability to him and are aware of the resources available in him. We serve our brother best when we see in him one of God’s other children for whom Christ died. Believing this, we would like to propose that for the next year the general emphasis of the church be THE DEEPENING OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE. This calls for the release of our utmost energies, and for motivating our lives from spiritual viewpoints.

A congregation may want to use any method for the deepening of the spiritual life which it believes to be useful and effective. In order to be helpful we are suggesting the following methods by which we believe this end may be furthered. In no case, however, should these suggestions be regarded as a blueprint of action to be slavishly followed.

SUGGESTIONS:

I. An Increased Emphasis on Bible Study

1. Studies on the Biblical basis of our program of missions, service, peace, temperance, stewardship, etc. These may form an excellent basis for discussion groups.
2. A careful study of the New Testament as a means of clarifying our basic theological belief.
3. More Bible study in youth groups, Bible institutes, and in district, regional, and Annual Conference programs.
4. Promotion of individual Bible study by suitable methods.
5. An increase of Biblical and expository preaching.

II. Prayer

While in one sense it is true that Advance in the church must come from below, in another sense it must come down from above. The great ground swell of Christian advance may be possible only as "showers of blessing" follow increased devotion and consecration. We suggest:

1. More time for group worship. For prayers of confession and intercession in the local church and in the district, regional, and annual conferences.
2. An increased emphasis on private personal devotion and meditation.
3. Continued emphasis on family prayers.
4. Christian groups of interested people of kindred spirits may find enrichment and uplift through discussion, testimony, and worship.

III. Christian Witnessing

We believe that much of the power of our religion is lost because of our unwillingness to share humbly with others our cherished religious experience. While we would avoid any ostentatious parading of intimate religious experiences which should be shared only with close friends, we believe we have overlooked the value and neglected the use of testimony as a means of Christian influence. "Ye shall be my witnesses" is our mandate from the Master.

1. We recommend that pastors encourage their members in such ways as seem wholesome to share genuine religious experiences as means of witnessing.

2. We believe our church publications might well be on the lookout for clear evidences of genuine, authentic religious experience and record them for Kingdom use.

3. Visitation evangelism by laymen is a form of witnessing with wide appeal and effectiveness.

IV. Commitment for Service

The emphasis on deepened spiritual life is effective only as it reaches the level of personal commitment.

1. We should continue to make specific appeals for personal commitment or recommitment to God.
2. We should call for the commitment of means—a tithe to the Lord and stewardship in all else.
3. We would recommend and encourage commitment to Volunteer Service in some form for the church, for both youth and adults.
4. And most specifically we should like to encourage our members to do at least one specific act of voluntary service for another person daily wherever possible in a face-to-face way or by written word.
5. A willingness to carry on at least one activity for the local church to promote organized religion in the community.
6. More commitments to the work of the ministry. Pastors and others may present the claims of the Christian ministry to young men.
7. Special opportunities to consider how men can find in their daily work a deeper fulfillment of their Christian vocation.

These suggestions call for individual commitment and action. To aid members of the church to follow through on this emphasis, we urge:

1. That local churches study this paper in their official boards, church cabinets, and program planning groups.
2. That regional and district program committees keep this emphasis in mind as they prepare programs.
3. That field people from general, regional, and district staffs keep this program in mind in their contacts throughout the year.
4. That the *Gospel Messenger* publish a series of articles on the fundamental issues on which the paper is based.
5. That the staff print this document in leaflet form and suggest supplementary resource material.

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Voted to continue the Advance With Christ by adopting this paper and its emphasis, THE DEEPENING OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE.

Brotherhood Fund, 1950-51

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference through Standing Committee that our Brotherhood Fund for 1950-51 be adopted as follows:

Bethany Biblical Seminary	$ 55,000.00

Brethren Service Commission	304,838.00
Christian Education Commission**	77,745.00
Finance Commission	19,000.00
Foreign Mission Commission	290,417.00
General Departments—financial promotion, visual education, regional appropriations, European office, Gospel Messenger editorial department, administration	116,000.00
Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund	28,000.00
Ministry and Home Mission Commission	205,000.00
Federal Council of Churches	2,000.00*
Reserve Fund	9,000.00
Total	$1,107,000.00
**Item added by recommendation of Standing Committee as appropriation to the colleges	45,000.00
	$1,152,000.00

*Payable from funds so designated.

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: The budget was adopted as amended by Standing Committee.

Dismissal of the Commission of Fifteen

Annual Conference Action, 1947

After the preparation of the approved report in a compiled booklet for distribution the Commission of Fifteen is to be dismissed.

Report of the Commission of Fifteen, 1949

In accord with the decision of the Annual Conference at Orlando the Commission of Fifteen has procured in booklet form the plans of organization for the brotherhood which were approved at the Wenatchee and Orlando Annual Conferences and has distributed the same in the brotherhood, thereby concluding its responsibility.

Harry K. Zeller, Jr., Secretary

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Report accepted.

Enlarged Consecration Service

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference through Standing Committee that the consecration service held at Annual Conference be enlarged to include the following persons:

1. Newly appointed missionaries (both home and foreign).
2. Ministers who have been ordained during the Conference year.
3. Brethren Service workers who have made a life commitment to Christian service.

A suggested order of service has been prepared by a committee o the board and is available for use as desired.

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Recommendation adopted.

Federal Income Tax Deductions

The following resolution was prepared by the General Brotherhood Board in its meeting in November 1948, at the request of the Standing Committee:

WHEREAS, the Church of the Brethren recognizes that its membership is affected by the tax laws and policy of the Federal government, particular concern is shared with other religious, educational, and charitable bodies that the "standard deduction" principle of the 1944 Tax Simplification Act does not require a declaration of sums contributed. The present form of this principle operates with the result that the individual may make the same deduction even though he may not actually make a contribution. In the interest of corrective tax policy and the improved relation of the church and the government,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Church of the Brethren favors the elimination of the standard deduction principle as it relates to the contributions to religious, charitable, and educational bodies.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that representatives of the Church of the Brethren make known to the Congress of the United States the values achieved by amendment to Federal tax laws to permit unlimited deduction for Federal income tax purposes on account of gifts or contributions to religious, charitable, and educational bodies.

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Resolution adopted.

Fiscal Year of the General Brotherhood Board

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference through Standing Committee that the fiscal year be changed to begin October 1 and end September 30 and that the change be made effective October 1, 1950.

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Recommendation adopted.

Publicity Evils

Query, 1948

Inasmuch as there is a growing menace placed before our youth in corrupt movies, radio murder stories, dangerous comic books, billboards, magazines, and other kindred evils, and, inasmuch as these evils constantly placed before the minds of youth are sure to result in the misleading of many, therefore, We, the elders of Northern Indiana in regular meeting at Camp Mack, August 18, 1947, petition Annual Meeting through district meeting to appoint a commission of five to study for one year ways and means of combating these evils and report to the 1949 Annual Conference.

Answer of district meeting: Passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer of 1948 Annual Conference: Referred to the General Brotherhood Board for study and report next year.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1949

To meet the menace of publicity evils constantly placed before our young people, the church can use its resources to build up in each individual an inner resistance to such attractions, and to guide its members in making effective protests which may help check the spread of this menace. Only as individual Christians develop habits of devotion, acquire a Christian scale of values, commit themselves to vocations of service, and grow in loyalty to the church and the Kingdom of God can they effectively stand up against the misleading and harmful things they see and hear. Parents of all age groups, teachers in our church schools, fellowship groups of young people, youth leaders in camps and conferences, and family units must give specific guidance to our youth to help them choose the highest Christian attitudes and behavior. The Christian Education Commission has outlined nine specific ways in which local churches in communities can work at this problem. Copies of this approved statement are available free by writing to the Christian Education Commission of the General Brotherhood Board.

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Report accepted.

Revised Brotherhood Fund, 1949-50

The following is the 1949-50 budget as approved by Annual Conference of 1948:

Bethany Biblical Seminary		$ 55,000.00
Brethren Service Commission		403,000.00
Christian Education Commission		
General program	$86,000.00	
College appropriations	45,000.00	131,000.00
Finance Commission		20,500.00
Foreign Mission Commission		286,390.00*
General Departments—financial promotion, visual education, field program, Gospel Messenger, European office, administration		130,000.00
Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund		30,000.00
Ministry and Home Mission Commission		175,000.00
Reserve Fund		11,610.00
		$1,242,500.00

Federal Council (payable from funds so designated)	1,500.00
	$1,244,000.00

*The Foreign Mission Commission anticipates spending $344,265, of which $57,875 is income expected from bequests and interest on endowments.

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference through Standing Committee that the Brotherhood Fund for 1949-50 be reopened and that the following be approved:

Bethany Biblical Seminary	$ 55,000.00
Brethren Service Commission	326,100.00(1)
Christian Education Commission†	
General	82,745.00
La Verne College	15,000.00
Finance Commission	19,000.00
Foreign Mission Commission	275,417.00(2)
General Departments—financial promotion, visual education, regional appropriations, European office, Gospel Messenger editorial department, administration	116,034.00
Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund	30,000.00
Ministry and Home Mission Commission	176,704.00
Federal Council of Churches	2,000.00††
Reserve Fund	9,000.00
	$1,107,000.00
††Payable from funds so designated.	
†Item added by recommendation of Standing Committee as appropriation to colleges	30,000.00
	$1,137,000.00

(1) Brethren Service Commission anticipates additional income of $20,000 from non-Brethren sources.

(2) Foreign Mission Commission anticipates $31,900 additional income from investments and bequests.

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: The recommendation to reopen the budget was accepted and the revised askings were adopted as amended by Standing Committee.

Statement on Displaced Persons

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference, through Standing Committee, the adoption of the following statement on displaced persons and refugees:

—Because of the vast need of homes for European displaced persons and refugees (there are at least seven million of them in a total population of forty-five million people in the western zone of Germany), and

—Because America has long been a haven for the persecuted and homeless, and

—Because Brethren should still remember with humility and gratitude the opportunity given to our church fathers when they were refugees, and

—Because American Protestants have lagged far behind other groups in providing assurances for the present act of Congress for only 205,000 of these homeless people, and

—Because our Christian faith impels us to take in the helpless stranger,

We commit ourselves, as a church, to the project of providing homes for these people up to the limit of our ability. Further, we call upon every local congregation to welcome and provide, if possible, for at least one refugee family.

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Statement adopted by unanimous vote.

Verbatim Report of Annual Conference

The Greenville congregation assembled in council petitions Annual Conference of 1949 through the district conference of Southern Ohio to rescind the action of 1931 (see *Minutes of the Annual Conferences, 1923-1944,* page 88) and authorize a verbatim report of the business sessions of Annual Conference as was the former practice of the church. This request is made believing that such a record in the archives of the church would be of a value to our future historians, and modern facilities make possible such a report at small expense. We do not anticipate the publication of this report for general use unless the demand should justify it.

Marlene Rhoades, Clerk

Answer of district meeting: Passed to Annual Conference.

Philip Lauver, Secretary

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Request granted.

1950, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Bethany Hospital Relationships

NOTE: See also the minutes of the 1949 Conference, the query entitled "Bethany Hospital."

Query, 1949

We, the Detroit church, assembled in business session, petition Annual Conference, through the district conference assembled in Beaverton, Michigan, August 27, 1948, to consider the following recommendations with regard to Bethany Hospital.

Since there is doubt in the minds of many as to the exact relationship between Bethany Hospital and the Church of the Brethren, we recommend that the whole problem of relationships be studied by a special committee of three and that they make a report at next Annual Conference. Furthermore, that the committee appointed by Conference draft a document of relationships that will safeguard the property of Bethany Hospital for the Church of the Brethren and, at the same time, safeguard the church from the possibility of litigations arising from the operations of the hospital as an institution.

Grayston Roy Ohmart, Clerk

Answer of district meeting: Passed and sent on to Annual Conference.

H. Arthur Whisler, Clerk

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Request granted and referred to the General Brotherhood Board.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1950

The General Brotherhood Board has studied the problem of Bethany Hospital relationships as recommended, and submits the following:

1. Bethany Hospital in Chicago is operated as a community charitable hospital by an Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporation which was organized November 15, 1920, under the corporate name of Bethany Sanitarium and Hospital.

2. The control of the hospital corporation is vested in the "members" of the corporation by virtue of the right and power of the *"members" to elect the trustees,* and by the right and power of the "members" to amend the charter. The present by-laws provide for three classes of "members," namely, (1) charter members, (2) elective members, and (3) organization members. Elective and organization members are restricted to individuals and organizations within the Church of the Brethren nominated to membership in the hospital corporation by the board of trustees, and elected by members.

3. There is a clause in the present by-laws of the hospital corporation to the effect that the members of the board of trustees "by the act of accepting office" shall "pledge themselves to hold all the property and

funds of said corporation in trust for the Church of the Brethren," and a further clause to the effect that the foregoing provision as to the pledge in trust for the church cannot be "nullified or amended in any way except by unanimous vote of the board of trustees and the consent of two thirds of the members of the corporation."

4. Inasmuch as the by-laws and the charter of the hospital corporation can be amended and changed from time to time by the "members" of the hospital corporation, the Church of the Brethren at present has no legal control over the hospital corporation, except indirectly by virtue of the present provision in the by-laws to the effect that the trustees "by the act of accepting office pledge themselves to hold all the property and funds of said corporation in trust for the Church of the Brethren."

5. As long as the hospital is operated as a separate and distinct corporation under its Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporation charter (as it should be), there will be no liability attaching to the Church of the Brethren because of, or on account of, the operations of the hospital.

As we see it, there is only a very remote possibility of the property not being held in trust for the Church of the Brethren. We feel the church is now safeguarded from a financial liability on account of litigation.

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Brotherhood Fund, 1950-51 [Revised]

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference of 1950 the adoption of the following [revised] Brotherhood Budget for the fiscal year 1950-51:

Bethany Biblical Seminary		$ 55,000.00
Brethren Service Commission		250,000.00
Christian Education Commission		
General program	$72,000.00	
College appropriations	12,000.00	84,000.00
Finance Commission		19,000.00
Foreign Mission Commission		275,000.00
General Departments—financial promotion, visual education, regional appropriations, European office, Gospel Messenger editorial expense, administration		110,000.00
Ministry and Home Mission Commission		165,000.00
Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund		30,000.00
Federal Council of Churches*		2,000.00
Reserve Fund		10,000.00
Total		$1,000,000.00

*Payable from funds so designated.

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: The budget was adopted as recommended.

Brotherhood Theme for 1950-51

The Ocean Grove Annual Conference adopted for the year of 1949-50 the theme, DEEPENING THE SPIRITUAL LIFE. There is abundant evidence of need for this theme to be pressed home to our churches even more vigorously than we have yet been able to do. We shall not be able to advance on any front unless we deepen more completely our spiritual foundations.

Conditions at home and abroad continuously confront us with insistent opportunities to offer a Christlike ministry and demonstrate a redemptive love. Everywhere the pagan and materialistic culture of our day is undermining the foundations of Christian family life. The hour has come when we must advance in the supremely important areas of providing spiritual undergirding for Brethren home and family life and in a vital evangelism. We shall not have power to advance at any point until we have first of all greatly strengthened the spiritual foundations of both our personal and our collective life. Spiritual retreat, in the sense of profound heart searching and renewal, may and must go hand in hand with advance in a more effective ministry to family life and in a program of evangelism.

We have, therefore, sought for the year of 1950-51 a theme that is intended to conserve all the values of the 1949-50 program of advance and be sufficiently comprehensive to include two additional points of emphasis. The theme which we recommend to the brotherhood for 1950-51 is DEEPENING AND SHARING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. And we suggest that under this theme, during the year 1950-51, the three following points of emphasis be effectively carried forward:

I. A CONTINUED AND ACCELERATED ENDEAVOR TO DEEPEN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCHES IN KEEPING WITH THE BRETHREN EMPHASIS FOR 1949-50

NOTE: See the Annual Conference minutes of 1949, under "Brethren Emphasis for 1949-50."

II. A LONG-RANGE PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN HOME AND FAMILY LIFE AND TO REACH OTHER FAMILIES FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Far-reaching changes have taken place in the family life of our time. In the past, the family in its way of life represented a great social and spiritual unity. But mobility and shifting of population causing impermanence of residence, growing industrialization with its implications for the role of women in modern society, economic insecurities affecting the stability of the home, disparity and competition of interests and loyalties, the loss of the sanctity of the marriage relationship, and childless marriages, have seriously impaired family solidarity.

Many of the social, moral, and spiritual problems of our time emerge from broken homes, which confront the Christian church with one of the most insistent challenges of our day. This problem presents something more than a subject for discussion and conference resolutions. The church must become interested in and undertake the exacting responsibility of planning and carrying forward a long-range program for the enriching of family life and the spiritual undergirding of our Brethren homes. Our youth must be prepared for the sacrament of marriage and family life. A comprehensive program of family life education should seek to achieve the following objectives:

1. Lead our people to a Christian view of marriage: marriage has been ordained of God and is, therefore, a sacred relationship; it is a spiritual union or blending of two personalities.
2. Teach our people that if love is given adequate spiritual nurture it will become an ever-deepening stream and the marriage relation may continue an increasingly enriching experience.
3. Help our people realize the deeper meaning, responsibility, and opportunity of parenthood, so that they may see in the family the most significant unit of the Kingdom of God.
4. Provide counsel and guidance for children, adolescents, young married couples, young parents, and older adults.
5. Help our people see that marriage is a permanent spiritual relationship in which husbands and wives shall need again and again to return to the first deep springs of love and surrender their wills to the control of God.

III. A GREATLY ENLARGED PROGRAM OF AGGRESSIVE EVANGELISM, MAKING USE OF ALL FRUITFUL METHODS, AND CO-OPERATING WITH ALL OTHER EVANGELICAL GROUPS IN THIS MOST URGENT ENDEAVOR

It is urgent that all our churches co-operate in a forward movement of vital evangelism. The call to advance in evangelism is made imperative by the times in which we live. Conditions in our land and across the world demand a revival of genuine Christianity. Everywhere men need a cleansing of their unrighteousness through faith in God and repentance of their sins. Vast areas of our world have become alien to the Christian faith. Other areas have never been confronted with the gospel of Christ. The churches themselves need to be saved from their complacency and impotence and experience a rebirth of spiritual power.

New life for men through faith in God and obedience to his will is a necessity. The gospel of Christ is the only hope of our sad and distraught world. It is incumbent upon the churches to bear witness to all men everywhere to the gospel "which is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." Only a world-wide movement of men toward Christ can offer any hope for mankind. The evangelization of the whole world is an inescapable duty resting upon the whole church and the Church of the Brethren cannot sidestep its responsibility in this important area of our ministry.

The purpose of the advance in evangelism may be stated as follows: (1) the renewal of the spiritual life of the ministry and the membership of the churches; (2) reaching the vast unchurched multitudes for Christ and his church; (3) thoroughly instructing and assimilating all new members brought into the membership of our churches; (4) enlisting all members who have changed their place of residence and who have not identified themselves with any local church in the community where they now live; (5) the spiritual transformation of persons through the power of Christ, so that Christian personalities shall be developed in all human relationships and in every area of modern life in order that the changed persons may in turn create a more Christian society.

The means suggested to accomplish the foregoing purposes are: (1) community religious census; (2) united prayer; (3) home visitation and fellowship evangelism, with special effort to enlist the youth of the church in this essential work; (4) preaching missions, spiritual emphasis week, or series of revival meetings; (5) National Christian Teaching Missions; (6) transferring of non-resident members; (7) the assimilation of new members; (8) special seasons of ingathering, such as, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, and World Communion Sunday.

Recognizing the vast possibilities for spiritual growth inherent in the above areas of advance we, therefore, urge the church to a more persistent and consecrated effort in the deepening of the spiritual life of individual members, in the spiritual undergirding of our family life, and in sharing the Christian faith with others until the leaven of the gospel shall pervade the life of every home within our range of responsibility and opportunity.

General Brotherhood Board

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Paper adopted as revised.

Delegates to Annual Conference

Because representation at the Annual Conference is now on a strictly membership basis, and because some churches now send too many delegates to Annual Conference while others do not send as many as the number to which they are entitled:

Therefore, we, the First Church of the Brethren, through the First District of Virginia respectfully request Annual Conference to say that the latest *Yearbook* membership shall be used as the basis for elected delegates to the Annual Conference.

(See the Annual Conference minutes for 1947.)

Lillian Martin, Clerk

The delegate body voted to pass this petition on to the Annual Conference.

D. H. Miller, Clerk

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Expense of Publishing the Yearbook

Whereas there is a heavy increase of expense to the Annual Conference treasury on matters such as the annual audit and the holding of Annual Conference, Standing Committee recommends to the Annual Conference of 1950 that we rescind the action of 1937 [*Minutes of the Annual Conferences, 1923-1944,* page 128] and that the General Brotherhood Board pay the cost of the pages of the *Yearbook* which give district information, namely, the Directory of Churches.

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Recommendation adopted.

Financing the Regional Program

Query, 1949

Whereas, the regional plan of organization was approved by the Annual Conference of 1947, as an agency of interpretation, inspiration, and promotion; and, whereas, neither the regional conference nor the regional council of boards has official status in that they have no legislative power, and, whereas no specific provision was made by Annual Conference for financing the regional work, we, the Harrisonburg congregation, ask the Annual Conference of 1949, through the district conference of Northern Virginia, to recommend a policy whereby the regional program may be satisfactorily financed.

Blanche D. Huffman, Clerk

Answer of district meeting: Passed to Annual Conference.

Joseph W. Miller, Secretary

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Referred to a committee of five for study and report next year. Committee: Bernard N. King, Norman J. Baugher, Russell V. Bollinger, Raymond L. Flory, S. Earl Mitchell.

Report of the Committee, 1950

We encourage an intimate working relationship between the regions and the Brotherhood.

We believe that the subsidy from the Brotherhood Fund to the regions should be the same for each region, except in emergency situations where an extra amount may be necessary for a stated time. If a region desires a more aggressive program than the appropriation from the Brotherhood Board would allow, we recommend that that region, through its own resources, finance such a program.

We suggest that regional budgets be underwritten by district apportionments, which amounts should be agreed upon by both the districts and the region. We do not believe it to be a sound long-range policy for a region to appeal directly to local churches or individuals for funds and would, therefore, encourage all districts to adopt procedures whereby each district supports its regional budget.

We commend the colleges for their co-operation in the regional budget, as evidenced by their providing of office space and other facilities. We recognize that this is a financial contribution to the regional budget and a wholesome relationship which should be maintained wherever possible.

Bernard N. King, Chairman
Norman J. Baugher
Russell V. Bollinger
S. Earl Mitchell
Raymond L. Flory

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Report adopted as amended.

Solicitation of Funds by Bethany Biblical Seminary

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference of 1950 that it consider favorably the request of the board of directors of Bethany Biblical Seminary that they be given permission to solicit funds for memorial windows which are to be placed in the new chapel.

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Statement on Race

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference the adoption of the following:

STATEMENT ON POSITION AND PRACTICES OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN IN RELATION TO THE RACE PROBLEM

The Church of the Brethren urges its members and all other Christians to give attention to the cause of love and justice toward those who belong, by reason of their ancestry, to minorities denied rights and privileges which all people equally deserve. Thus far the church has been slow to speak with a prophetic voice on this question. Our American congregations have only a few scattered members from other races than our own. Our efforts in behalf of better interracial relations have been largely limited to occasional casual pronouncements in resolutions. There is an embarrassing possibility that secular organizations may at present be more active in sensitizing the public conscience at this point than the church itself.

I. The Extent of the Problem

Our largest racial minority consists of fifteen million Negroes whose ancestors were brought to this country against their will. The list of discriminations and injustices directed against them is a long one. They suffer denial of the right to vote, of adequate educational opportunities, of decent health and housing facilities, and of common courtesies in shops, trains, and places of entertainment. They are excluded from various desirable occupations and residential areas. They do not enjoy the full protection of our laws and our courts of justice. They are subjected from time to time to mob violence in lynchings and race riots.

It is true that these conditions are not universal and that they are showing some signs of improvement. Neither are they to be blamed on certain sections of the country. Yet, the total effect of these conditions is still such that many peoples from other parts of the world and particularly those of other than the white race are pointing accusing fingers at us. Our country and the Union of South Africa share the unhappy distinction of maintaining the sharpest color lines in the world. American missionaries are pressed ever harder to explain why these conditions exist in the country which does so much to preach the Christian way elsewhere. Non-Christian groups capitalize on this situation in their propaganda.

The other minority races in the United States are smaller in number, and their sufferings are not as uniformly prevalent. Yet in certain localities and circumstances they are equally serious. Spanish-speaking people, especially the recent arrivals from Mexico in our southwestern states, share many of the experiences of the Negro. Persons of Chinese and Japanese ancestry have also been subjected to them. Our country's recent disgraceful treatment of our Japanese Americans is vivid in our memories. Our American Indians, although they lived in this land long before the white people came, also continue to suffer discriminations and restrictions. Perhaps the most serious factor in their situation is the result of their long and once compulsory residence on reservations where they could not live normal, self-reliant lives.

Although the Jews are not actually a distinct race, they are quite commonly regarded as such and are frequently treated as undesirable strangers among us. Efforts are made to exclude them from attractive forms of employment, from some of our important educational institutions, and from certain desirable places of residence. There is evidence of a rising tide of anti-Semitism in this country, an ironical situation when we recall that one of our serious charges against Nazi Germany was that Jews were mistreated there.

II. CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES ON RACE

We must evaluate our racial attitudes in the light of Christian principles. There is nothing in the New Testament to indicate that God extends less of his love or less of his yearning desire for reconciliation to one race than another. "Whosoever will" may avail himself of God's love (John 3:16; Revelation 22:17). Jesus rebuked the Jews for racial exclusiveness and reminded them of cases where "outsiders" were close to God (Luke 4:26, 27; 10:33-35). Peter learned that in every nation there were righteous people acceptable to God (Acts 10:34, 35). Paul told the Athenians that all men are God's offspring (Acts 17:26-29).

Salvation is not a matter of race. There are saved and lost persons in all races. Christians are determined not by birth but by rebirth.

Furthermore, it is every Christian's duty to lead as many people to Christ as he can, and we cannot lead people to Christ unless we deal with them in the fullest spirit of love. It is clear that even in the case of the unsaved from other races, Christians have not the slightest excuse for treating them unjustly or in an unbrotherly fashion. It is our duty to love them and to seek to win them.

The ideal of democracy is in accord with these Christian principles where it holds that all men deserve equal rights and privileges. The Declaration of Independence asserts that "all men are created equal." The new Universal Declaration of Human Rights specifically guarantees its rights and freedoms without distinctions such as race or color. But Americans have thus far failed to live up to this lofty ideal, and the democracy which we profess remains unconvincing to those large portions of the world where people have darker skins.

Modern science, whose search for truth is in accord with Christian principles, makes race discrimination wholly untenable. Unfair treatment for the Negro has often been justified by the claim that his abilities are inferior. But extensive scientific research has now established the fact that there is no significant difference among the various races in potential ability. All have the same average of ability and the same range of genius and stupidity.

III. The Church's Commitment

The Church of the Brethren believes in living according to the New Testament principles. We, therefore, commit ourselves unhesitatingly to the belief that, regardless of race or ancestry, all men deserve equal rights, opportunities, and privileges and should bear responsibility according to their individual capacities.

We acknowledge that we have not thus far done our best to put this belief into action and that even the belief itself has at times been weak. For this we should be deeply penitent.

We realize also that it will prove difficult for some of us to put this belief into action and that it may take time. Training, tradition, and custom, sometimes even law, may hinder. We affirm our fellowship and brotherhood with any who encounter such difficulties. We recognize that we all fall short of our ideals and that probably none of us is without fault in our social attitudes.

Nevertheless, it is urgent that we begin at once to practice the ideal of interracial justice and brotherhood. We must no longer allow the difficulties to excuse lack of effort or the need of time to justify the indefinite postponement of action.

IV. Recommendations for Action

As concrete steps we recommend such of the following policies as are feasible for individuals and congregations:

People of all races should be freely welcomed into the membership of any and all congregations with no requirements or restrictions other than those ordinarily asked of anyone.

Fellowship in pews and at meals should be equally available to all.

Particular attention and effort should be devoted to the possibility of extending our home mission work to people of other races. Where the territory of a local church is becoming predominantly occupied by such people, we should seize the opportunity for fellowship and service with them.

Special efforts should be made to help our children, young people, and adults make the acquaintance of people from other racial groups. The presence of such people in our summer camps and colleges is to be commended. They should not, however, be treated as curiosities. Race differences may be emphasized by too much special attention as well as by aloofness. The goal should be a warm but natural friendship and understanding.

Employers will do well to make an effort to include representatives of other races in their staffs, but here again the goal of a natural relationship should be kept in mind. Just as we encourage persons of other races to mingle in our predominantly white groups, so we should be alert for opportunities to enter and establish fellowship with groups where another race is in the majority.

The church should help its members to understand that some undesirable behavior by those of other races is as inevitable as it is among the white people and that the racial group as a whole is no more to be blamed for it than the white race as a whole is to blame for its criminals and disturbing elements.

Our church should co-operate with other religious bodies and with suitable secular organizations in efforts to combat race prejudice. The church should be ready to protest when discriminatory laws or measures are directed against racial minorities. It should give active support to wise measures safeguarding their right to fair treatment in employment and the other concerns of life.

In these and in other ways, which will become apparent as we look for them under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it will be possible to make the gospel of Jesus with its message of a loving Father and a great potential Christian family an actuality in our lives. Let us be Brethren, not only with those of our own immediate circle, but with an ever-widening circle of those, whatever their color or class may be, whom God loves.

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: The statement was adopted as edited.

1951, San Jose, California

Advancement and Standards in the Ministry

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference the adoption of the following statement:

I. CALLING CANDIDATES TO THE MINISTRY

1. Men and women before entering the ministry of the church should feel the call of God to serve. God's call may come in such ways as:

(a) To the individual who, having heard the call, may volunteer to elder, pastor, or pastoral board;

(b) Through the church, which may lay it upon the heart of the person to accept and serve after prayer and under guidance of the Holy Spirit.

2. When such a call of God is felt, it is important that the following procedures outlined by the 1942 Conference be carefully carried out, namely:

(a) "Members of the district ministerial board (or similar responsible persons of the board of administration) should be informed and the two boards (local church official board and district board) should examine the candidate with reference*

(1) "to his or her aims,
(2) "to natural ability,
(3) "to moral and spiritual fitness,
(4) "to willing preparation for the duties of the ministry."

3. We should exercise great care in licensing men and women to the ministry. They should not be licensed until it is clear that they meet the desired qualifications and possess an attitude of love for Christ and for the Church of the Brethren and its institutions and program.

4. "If and when these boards are satisfied that the applicant qualifies, he or she shall be licensed as directed in the minutes of the Annual Meeting and the order of service as printed in the Minister's Manual" (Annual Meeting minutes, 1942).

5. ". . . the license of (brethren) may be renewed by the church from year to year, until such brethren either accept and are ordained into the ministry, according to previous decisions, or are discontinued as licensed preachers; or if in the judgment of the church and the district ministerial board the best interest of the church can be served, these brethren may be given license to preach for an indefinite time" (Annual Meeting minutes, 1946).

6. Before renewal of the license to preach, an interview with the

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* A questionnaire and rating sheet prepared by the office of Ministry and Home Missions should be used in reviewing the qualifications for the ministry.

licentiate should be held by the official board of the local church and the proper district authorities to ascertain the continued fitness of the licentiate for such renewal.

II. ADVANCEMENT IN THE MINISTRY

1. Men

(a) While the church does not require college and seminary training of all its ministers, it recognizes this as an ideal and urges effort toward this attainment.

A reading course prepared by the Ministry and Home Mission Commission and approved by the General Brotherhood Board and administered by the proper district authorities, should be required of all candidates for the ministry. It will provide reading suitable for growth of:

(1) Those seeking license to the ministry,
(2) Those licensed,
(3) Those ordained to the ministry.

(b) Advancement of licentiates to the ordained ministry should not take place until educational preparation has been completed and/or active ministerial or other church service is to begin. Before licentiates are ordained, an interview should be held by the official board of the local church and proper district authorities to ascertain the fitness of the licentiate for ordination. (See *Brotherhood Organization,* "Function of the Elders' Body," II-B-3.)

(c) At the time of ordination to the ministry the candidate should be instructed in the calling, function, privilege, and dignity of the ministry. He should be urged to consider the ministry a lifetime calling.

(d) Ordination to the eldership should not be hurried. Time should be allowed for growth and the demonstration of able leadership before ordination takes place. It may be initiated and carried out in the following manner (Annual Meeting minutes, 1890, 1927, and 1947):

(1) "The authority to ordain elders shall be vested in the elders of the state districts.

(2) "The elders assembled at district meeting shall consult as to the ordination of all elders to be effected in the district. If the majority of the elders decide that the ordination should be made, the matter shall be referred to the district ministerial board (to have in charge the ordination of ministers to the eldership approved by the elders of the districts—Conference minutes, 1927), who shall go to the church and, in council with it if they find no gospel objections, the ordination shall be made.

(3) "The necessity of ordaining elders may originate with the officers of the church or the elders of the district."

2. Women

(a) "These licenses (of sisters) may be renewed from year to year.

When in the judgment of the church and the district ministerial board, their work and interest justify it, they may receive permanent licenses to preach" (Annual Meeting minutes, 1922).

III. RELINQUISHING THE MINISTRY

If ministers desire to relinquish their ministry, they may present their resignation to the local church and district officials.

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Statement adopted as revised by the committee and amended.

Amendments to the Conference Rules

Standing Committee recommends to the 1951 Annual Conference that the Conference Rules be amended by the following additional items (to be regarded as items number 7 and 8 while the present items 7 and 8 become numbers 9 and 10).

"7. The Conference shall have no authority to change the wording or the intent of any paper or query submitted as Conference business by state districts.

"8. The Standing Committee may review the reports of Conference committees but has no authority to change or revise such reports."

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Recommendations adopted.

Amendments to the Pension Plan

I. In the judgment of the Pension Board it is desirable and necessary that the Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan of the Church of the Brethren be further amended. As provided in the pension plan, therefore, the Pension Board has adopted the following amendment, ad interim, and presents the amendment to Annual Conference of 1951 for ratification:

ARTICLE III. MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Each member shall contribute an amount equivalent to four per cent of his salary during his active membership, except as hereinafter provided. All such contributions shall be credited to the individual account of the member and be increased by the interest credits thereon.

Any member of the pension plan shall be permitted, during the period of his or her participation under the Social Security Act (H.R. 6000) as amended from time to time, to pay contributions into the pension plan equal to the members' regular contributions, less the amount paid in employee taxes under the Social Security Act by or for such member, provided the employing organization pays the organization's regular contributions, less the amount paid in employer taxes under the Social Security Act on such employee. The pension and other benefits payable under this category shall be in proportion to the total contributions actually paid into the pension plan as compared to the total contributions normally paid by and on behalf of members of the pension plan who are not participating under the Social Security Act. Minimum benefits shall be similarly proportioned.

II. Growing out of increased interest throughout the country in adequate pensions for all workers, both by private plans and government provisions, and numerous suggestions that steps be taken to amend our pension plan to provide benefits that would more nearly equal the purchasing power of the dollar when the plan was launched in 1943, the Pension Board recommends to Annual Conference that the pension plan be further amended, effective September 1, 1951, as follows:

ARTICLE IV. CONGREGATION CONTRIBUTIONS

Each congregation served by a member shall contribute an amount equivalent to six per cent of the salary of such member. Such contributions shall be items of current expense and not of benevolence.

All such congregation contributions shall be subject to a deduction by the Pension Board of not to exceed one twelfth thereof toward the expense of administering the pension plan, and a further deduction of not to exceed one twelfth thereof for the contingent fund. The balance of each such congregation contribution shall be credited to the individual account of the member serving such congregation and shall be increased by the interest credits thereon.

In the event that a congregation served by a member does not contribute as hereinbefore provided, then one half of the amounts which would otherwise have been deducted from the congregation contributions for administrative expenses and for the contingent fund, shall be deducted from such member's contributions.

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Amendment per Article III was ratified. Amendment per Article IV was adopted.

Brotherhood Fund Goal 1951-52

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference the adoption of a Brotherhood Fund goal of $1,250,000 for the year 1951-1952.

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Recommended goal adopted.

Financial Support of Bethany Seminary

Query, 1950

Whereas, the Wenatchee Valley church believes that adequately trained leadership is necessary for the continued growth and expansion of our denomination in all of its many fields of service, and

Whereas, the Wenatchee Valley church believes the quality and quantity of that leadership is endangered by the present plan of financial support of our only seminary, Bethany;

Therefore, we, the Wenatchee Valley church, in regular quarterly council September 7, 1949, petition Annual Conference, through district meeting held at Sunnyslope, November 16-20, 1949, to place Bethany's budget of needs upon a guaranteed basis.

Merle Travis, Church Clerk

Action of district conference of Washington: Motion carried to pass the above query to Annual Conference with our full support.

Laurie Kingery, Clerk

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Referred to the General Brotherhood Board.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1951

The General Brotherhood Board submits the following answer to the query on Financial Support of Bethany Seminary:

Our general church program is financed by the giving of our members, mainly during the current year.

We do not favor any one portion of the program being a first lien against the current contribution.

However, the General Brotherhood Board is aware of long-term commitments in certain areas, such as Bethany Biblical Seminary, a large portion of our mission program, our obligation to retired missionaries, and others. The board will continue its policy of assuring such agencies regular support insofar as the continuing giving of the church makes it possible.

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Report accepted.

Future of Brethren Volunteer Service

Query, 1950

We, the Denver church, ask Annual Conference of 1950, through the district conference of Colorado, that an evaluation and comprehensive study be inaugurated to determine the future of Brethren Volunteer Service as to: (1) its place in our church program; (2) its source of financial support; (3) establishment of an adequate budget for it. We further petition that a committee be appointed for further study and planning; such a committee to include one member of the National Youth Cabinet, and others not already encumbered in other projects closely related to Brethren Service, and report to Annual Conference in 1951.

Galen Hostetler, Clerk

Answer of district conference of Colorado, August 18-21, 1949: Passed to Annual Conference.

Frank E. Nies, Writing Clerk

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Granted the request for the study; the Committee to be made up of members of the General Brotherhood Board as designated by the board, working in co-operation with the National Youth Cabinet.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1951

In harmony with the request of the 1950 Annual Conference the General Brotherhood Board submits the following report and recommendations on the Brethren Volunteer Service program.

First: We believe that the Brethren Volunteer Service program should be regarded as a continuing part of the general church program. We regard the present program as one of the most effective means to do the following things:

A. To stimulate our peace witness.

B. To teach a Christian alternative to the greed and secularism which grow in a fiercely competitive society.

C. To develop creative leadership among our young people.

D. To provide a means for the church to meet human need which would not be met in any other way.

Second: We believe that the present program should be expanded. The expansion should take place in three areas:

A. Developing personnel and projects for volunteer service in local churches.

B. Using middle-aged and older people who are free to go into volunteer projects.

C. Using more young people—especially those seeking a positive alternative to military service.

Third: The program should be given a more adequate financial basis. Up to the present time it has been borne by the Brethren Service Commission budget within the Brotherhood Fund. A number of very worth-while projects have been turned down because there were not ample funds to open them. We recommend that wherever possible the projects bear the costs of the volunteers while they are on the project. To implement this program, we believe that an increased budget will need to be provided.

Fourth: We feel that there should be a strengthening and expansion of the supervisory personnel to oversee the work on the projects. This should be increased in number, quality, and effectiveness.

Fifth: Promotion should be increased, with a continuing emphasis on careful selection of applicants. We recommend that our youth give Brethren Volunteer Service serious consideration; we call upon the boards and agencies of the church and the local congregations to set forth and interpret to the church the significance of the Brethren Volunteer Service program; we recommend that the church agencies seek to enlist volunteers and financial support of the program. Program committees for local, district, and wider meetings across the Brotherhood might well consider including the Brethren Volunteer Service value in their program emphases.

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Report accepted as amended.

Goodwill Toward Other Nationals

Query, 1950

The Pasadena Church of the Brethren petitions Annual Conference through district conference to provide for the initiation and promotion of a campaign to make all the people conscious of the importance of building goodwill toward other nationals, and in other nationals toward us as the only sound basis for lasting peace.

We ask that all other churches be urged to join in an organized, united effort to reach the minds of the people through every avenue, especially through schools.

We ask that until better ways are found for building goodwill, this campaign should actively advocate the general public support of the best foreign relief projects.

We ask that this campaign be organized and set into action as soon as is possible so as to take advantage of the need for great relief in so many places, and the consequent opportunity for building goodwill.

John W. Wilson, Clerk

Answer of district conference of Southern California and Arizona, October 15, 1949: Passed to Annual Conference.

Burton E. Forney, Secretary

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: We commend the Christian purposes behind this paper. Since the church already has avenues and agencies for this type of work, we refer the query to the General Brotherhood Board.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1951

The General Brotherhood Board recommends the adoption of the following statement as the answer to the query on Goodwill Toward Other Nationals:

Commanded by our Lord and Master to love even our enemies, all Christians are under steady obligation of goodwill to all people, regardless of national or other barriers. However, when hatred is deliberately cultivated and accepted as normal, Christian people have an extra obligation to express goodwill.

But the words of goodwill often sound empty, because our deeds do not fit them. Accordingly the Church of the Brethren proposes wholehearted service as the best carrier wave of goodwill. To this end this Conference commends: for schools such projects as toys, towel kits, shoes, seeds, and raising heifers to help other children; for homes, the exchange of high school and college students; for churches, the resettling of displaced persons. It also recommends selecting the "goodwill kind" of pictures, songs, stories, drama, and games of other nationals.

For older youth, the Conference recommends Brethren Volunteer Service and related programs; for adults, travel to learn to know the people of other nations in their home communities. For both churches and governments, it recommends the carrying out on a world scale and on a long-time basis of the "Point Four" foreign policy program as announced by President Truman, without regard to political advantage —but as a determined expression of goodwill. For all Christians, it urges limiting our personal wants for the sake of our needy neighbors.

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Report accepted.

Handbook for New Church Members

Query, 1950

The District of Washington in conference assembled at the Sunnyslope church, November 16-20, 1949, petitions Annual Conference at Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 1950, to make a study of, and if possible, to produce a suitable handbook which could be given to those coming into our church. It is the desire of the delegate body that said handbook contain:

1. A statement of welcome to the candidate
2. The baptismal vows
3. A baptismal certificate suitable for our purposes
4. A clear statement on the simple life
5. Teaching on the stewardship of life, time, and possessions
6. The responsibility of church membership
7. A lifting up of the New Testament teaching on the way of love and goodwill

Laurie Kingery, Writing Clerk

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Request granted, and the matter is referred to the General Brotherhood Board.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1951

The General Brotherhood Board reports that the preparation of a handbook for new members has been assigned to the Christian Education Commission, which, in consultation with the Ministry and Home Mission Commission, is now at work on this task.

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Report accepted and more time granted.

Homes for Older People

Query, 1949

The board of administration of Northern Illinois and Wisconsin requests district conference to petition Annual Conference to appoint a committee to study the advisability of the General Brotherhood Board receiving funds from the brotherhood for the purpose of establishing homes for older people in desirable locations in mild climates.

Request granted.

Ora W. Garber, Secretary

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Voted to authorize the General Brotherhood Board to develop a plan whereby small but substantial homes may be established for older people in mild climates.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1950

The General Brotherhood Board asks for more time for a final report.

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Granted the request for more time.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1951

The General Brotherhood Board has studied carefully the various parts of the problem of providing homes in mild climates for older persons. There will be increasing need for such facilities.

1. We recommend:

a. That the General Brotherhood Board receive homes, property which may be sold, and funds for homes, to be used as donors may specify.

b. That such homes be operated by the districts or the regions.

c. That the relationship of the General Brotherhood Board and the districts or the regions concerning such homes be worked out later.

d. That the General Brotherhood Board, through the Brethren Service Commission, offer an advisory service to such homes, as well as to the thirteen or more homes now serving the brotherhood. Efforts should be made to provide spiritual and recreational opportunities, as well as physical facilities for residents of such homes.

Note: This is additional to the report of the board submitted above and is a procedural suggestion provided the other recommendations are passed by Conference.

2. The General Brotherhood Board asks Annual Conference to authorize a committee of three to make a study of the possibilities for a retirement home or homes in the vicinity of Sebring, Florida, and to ask this committee to bring its report to the General Brotherhood Board.

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Report accepted and committee authorized for item 2. Committee: Frank S. Carper (convener), Levi B. Oaks, Jacob F. Replogle.

NOTE: This committee brought a report to the General Brotherhood Board, who then passed the concern on to the Southeastern Region.

Location of Church Headquarters

Query, 1949

The Bridgewater church asks Annual Conference of 1949, meeting at Ocean Grove, New Jersey, through district conference of Second Virginia, to inaugurate a comprehensive study of the location of the headquarters and publishing interests of the Church of the Brethren now at Elgin, Illinois, with reference to the possibility of relocation in Elgin or relocation in some other area where costs of living and labor might be more favorable; to the possibility of combining our publishing interests with those of some other religious body or bodies; and to the advisability of locating the general offices of the church at some point other than in connection with the Brethren Publishing House.

Elmer Myers, Clerk

Answer of district conference: Passed to Annual Conference.

M. R. Wolfe, District Secretary

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Request granted. Referred to the General Brotherhood Board for study and report next year. They are to disregard the words "and labor" in lines five and six.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1950

The General Brotherhood Board reports that it has canvassed the situation regarding location of church headquarters, is in process of further study, and asks for more time for a definite recommendation.

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Granted the request for more time.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1951

The General Brotherhood Board, after making a careful and comprehensive study of the query regarding the location of church headquarters, offers the following answer:

1. In regard to relocating in Elgin, after canvassing the possibilities, it is our judgment that there is no reasonable opportunity at the present time. However, the board of directors of the publishing house will keep alert to any future possibility.
2. In regard to relocating elsewhere, we do not find enough variation in living costs in other Brethren centers to warrant a change.
3. In regard to combining our publishing interests with those of other religious bodies, we can find no interest on the part of such toward working out this arrangement. We do find an interest on the part of others in printing our publications. The rates were found to be substantially higher than our costs.
4. In regard to separating the general offices from the publishing house, we believe we should remain together, on the basis of economy, for at least as long as we occupy our present building. If the time should come that we make some disposition of the present property, the matter of separating these interests should again be given consideration.

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Report accepted.

Membership Transfer

Query, 1949

Because of the desirability of being an active member of the congregation in the community where one lives; because of the tremendous loss in membership experienced when members move from the locality of one congregation to another; because of the tremendous shifts and migrations of American people in recent years; and because Protestant churches are losing approximately sixty-six per cent of all church members who move into the Pacific Coast region:

We, the Long Beach church, petition Annual Conference, through the district meeting of Southern California and Arizona, to appoint a committee to study procedures by which letters of church membership may be transferred within the brotherhood. We would suggest that the committee give careful consideration to the advisability of congregations of the brotherhood forwarding the letters of church membership of members who have moved, as soon as residence is known, to either the congregation of the Church of the Brethren within whose proximity the member has taken up residence or the office of the secretary of the region to which the member has moved, which office shall forward the letter to the appropriate congregation, unless the member requests that the letter remain with the former congregation.

Bernice H. Lichty, Clerk

Answer of district meeting: Passed to Annual Conference.

Jesse Brandt, Secretary

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Request granted. Referred to a committee: Charles E. Zunkel (convener), Norman J. Baugher, Rufus P. Bucher, H. L. Hartsough, J. W. Lear.

Report of the Committee, 1950

Report of progress. Final report to be made at 1951 Conference.

Norman J. Baugher
Rufus P. Bucher,
H. L. Hartsough (unable to meet)
J. W. Lear,
Charles E. Zunkel (convener)

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Accepted the report of progress and continued the committee.

Report of the Committee, 1951

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENTS

1. The church is the spiritual body of Jesus Christ and is called, by Paul, "the church of the living God." "God is love," and through his grace and the meritorious sacrifice of Jesus Christ this relationship has been made available to all men everywhere. Faith, repentance, and obedience enable men of all stations in life, through the Holy Spirit, to enjoy fellowship with God and one another and thus become the *Universal Church.*

2. Denominations (of which there are said to be more than two hundred) have arisen as a result of differing interpretations of theology; disagreement as to the number and purpose of religious symbols (sacraments); the forms and authority of church polity; and the varieties of church organization. In the early church these divisions were not known. Neither was this condition in the purpose of Christ, who prayed, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17: 21).

3. Church letters of transfer represent the method by which a denomination maintains the location and tabulation of its membership within the organization. They have no specific value other than this. The system does not guarantee Christian discipleship. It is but a formal statement announcing such profession. "The Lord knows those that are his," and relationship with his spiritual body is neither hindered nor abetted by letters of transfer.

4. A letter of transfer is the property of the congregation and should be so understood by all concerned. Its main purpose is to register, promote, and safeguard transfer of membership from one congregation to another within the denomination. The letter of transfer should go from the granting to the receiving congregation. The system of allowing the individual to carry the letter of transfer, in the case of timid or careless individuals, has frequently caused a lapse in church membership. Congregations need a more dependable plan in their attempt to serve the increasing mobile membership and to keep records more reliable and up-to-date. The time between the move and the new contacts on the part of those who are changing membership should be reduced to a minimum.

5. The matter of transfer by letter is simplified and provides less occasion for cavil or criticism when it is understood (a) as registering a change of location on the part of the member, and (b) as serving to introduce the member to the receiving congregation. The time of the transfer of membership should not be the occasion for disciplinary methods. Many have been estranged and lost to the denomination, unnecessarily, by such procedure.

II. THE METHOD OF TRANSFER

1. When members change congregational residence, the congregation in which they have lived shall send a letter of transfer, without delay, to the pastor or elder (moderator) of the congregation in whose territory they intend to move or have moved unless the member requests that his membership remain with the former congregation. A personal friendly letter should be written to the party or parties to the effect that a letter of transfer has been sent to the other congregation, informing the

pastor of the change and requesting that as soon as possible they should attend the services in the new congregation and create new fellowships. A copy of the letter should be sent to the pastor or elder (moderator) of the receiving congregation.

2. This plan, if it is to be both corrective and effective, requires that members of a congregation should be made familiar with the meaning and method of transfer. Also, that the officers of congregations maintain such fellowship and oversight with the membership as will enable them to check the movements of their members with relative accuracy. Members planning to change location should, if at all possible, confer with the pastor or elder (moderator) prior to moving.

3. If and when the granting congregation is uncertain as to the name of the congregation to which a letter of transfer should be sent (as may happen when members move without leaving proper information) the office of the regional secretary should assist in clearing the situation.

4. When members move and desire to place their membership (for justifiable reasons) in a congregation of some other denomination, the regular form of transfer may be used. The form should be prepared so as to be suitable for use within the brotherhood or in transfer to another denomination.

In either case a letter of explanation, with sufficient detail to be understandable, should be given the party that is moving and also a copy explaining conditions should be sent to the receiving congregation.

In all cases, a file of the type of transfer should be kept by the issuing congregation so that future references, if necessary, would be intelligible.

5. A special form should be used for officials (elders, ministers, licentiates, deacons). This form should be used when the official and membership fellowship is being transferred to another congregation within the denomination. However, when denominational lines are crossed, official standing is fully at the option of the receiving denomination.

Note: It is not implied that the Annual Conference encourages the actions listed in paragraphs 4 and 5 of Article II. They are inserted as a guide when such conditions arise.

Norman J. Baugher
Rufus P. Bucher
H. L. Hartsough
J. W. Lear
Charles E. Zunkel (convener)

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Report accepted as revised. Former decisions in conflict with it are considered repealed.

Ministerial Placement

Queries, 1950

MINISTERIAL PLACEMENT POLICY

The elders' body of Western Pennsylvania assembled in regular district meeting, Windber, Pennsylvania, October 26, 1949, requests Annual Conference through district meeting to change the report of the General Ministerial Board on Ministerial Placement and Policy, last sentence of Section II, Paragraph 1, Annual Meeting Minutes, 1936, which now reads: "It shall be understood that the pastoral board of the local church has the right, provided it shall first confer with the district and General Ministerial boards, to submit as a nomination the name of any particular minister in whom the congregation is especially interested," to read as follows: "It shall be understood that the pastoral board of the local church has the right, provided it shall first secure the approval of the district ministerial board and of the Ministry and Home Mission Commission, to submit as a nomination the name of any particular minister of the Church of the Brethren in whom the congregation is especially interested."

John D. Ellis, Clerk

Answer of district conference: Passed to Annual Conference.

John D. Ellis, Clerk

PROCEDURE IN CALLING A PASTOR

The elders of the District of Middle Pennsylvania petition Annual Conference through the district conference to consider the following a recommended statement of policy: "A congregation shall consult with the district mission-ministerial board for its approval before calling a pastor. The congregation shall have the right to appeal to the district elders in case of an unfavorable decision by the district mission-ministerial board. It is contrary to the practice and policy of the Church of the Brethren to call as a pastor one who is not ordained by the Church of the Brethren, or one who is under discipline by said Church of the Brethren."

Answer of district conference: Passed to Annual Conference.

C. L. Cox, Clerk

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference to the two queries: Referred to a committee for study and report next year. Committee: Ralph E. White (convener), George Detweiler, F. E. Mallott, H. L. Ruthrauff, W. H. Yoder.

Report of the Committee, 1951

We your committee offer the following answer: "It shall be understood that the pastoral board of the local church has the right, after clearance with the district ministerial board and other placement persons, to submit as a nomination the name of any particular minister of the

Church of the Brethren in whom the congregation is especially interested and to whom the committee can give unanimous support. It is contrary to the practice and policy of the Church of the Brethren to call as a pastor one who is not an ordained minister of the Church of the Brethren, or one who is under discipline by the Church of the Brethren."

F. E. Mallott, Secretary

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: It is considered that the adoption of the [following] item of new business, "Ministerial Placement and Policy," covers the concern and import of this report.

Ministerial Placement and Policy

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference the adoption of the following statement:

MINISTERIAL PLACEMENT AND POLICY

The Ministry and Home Mission Commission of the General Brotherhood Board, with the assistance of many persons of the Brotherhood, has given careful study to the revision of the ministerial placement policy adopted by the Hershey Annual Conference of 1936.* This has been done to bring it into accord with present developments in placement procedures which have been found helpful out of experience and to include such changes as were introduced by the adoption of the report of the Commission of Fifteen in the Wenatchee Annual Conference of 1946 and the Orlando Annual Conference of 1947.

The following recommendations are submitted and when adopted by Conference shall supersede former decisions on these matters.

I. General Recommendations

1. Ministerial Tenure. We recommend that the church be committed to the policy of the long pastorate believing that it is productive of the greatest good to both the congregation and the ministry. Wisdom should be exercised by churches in calling pastors and by pastors in accepting calls in order to avoid misfits. Pastoral changes should be made with consideration and harmony.

2. Ministerial Placement, Supervision, and Transfer. The official agencies of the church for placement, supervision, and transfer are: (a) the local ministerial board; (b) the district ministerial board or ministerial secretary; (c) the regional secretary or ministerial secretary; (d) the secretary of the Ministry and Home Mission Commission of the General Brotherhood Board, who serves in the area of co-ordination and counsel as he is needed.

3. The Pastoral Term. We recommend that the pastoral term be of indefinite duration and that the right to terminate a pastorate by

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* Found on page 120 of *Minutes of the Annual Conferences, 1923-1944.*

resignation generally be conceded to the ministry. There should be reasonable notice of a desire to terminate a pastorate either by the minister or by the congregation. It would seem wise to seek to make desired pastoral changes immediately following Easter, to become effective August 1. We would discourage, as much as possible, pastoral changes during the pastoral year.

4. The Elder- or Moderator-Pastor Relationship. The elder or moderator of the congregation shall be considered the official head of the congregation and shall preside at all church councils, especially when the pastoral relationship is under consideration. He should be regarded as the chief counselor and adviser of the pastor in all of his work. The pastor should be considered the spiritual leader of the church, the active leader in its program and activities, the "shepherd of the flock." When conditions warrant, the church may elect the pastor as elder or moderator. In such situations a member of the district ministerial board (or board of administration) should preside in all council meetings when the pastoral relationship is under consideration.

5. The Pastoral Year. The pastoral year begins August 1. No change in pastorates should be contemplated at any other time, except where conditions arise which may cause injury to the work of the Kingdom or jeopardize in a personal way the welfare of the minister. Such situations should be adjusted by mutual consent of the church and the minister.

6. Adjustment of Pastoral Difficulties. The district ministerial board may make investigations of congregations or pastors, when, in their judgment, conditions warrant them. A congregation, or a minority of the congregation, or the pastor may call upon the district ministerial board for such service. This should be done when the first difficulties arise and while unity may be restored, thus averting serious discord or division. In all such cases, if the work of the district ministerial board, in counsel with the regional executive, is not satisfactory to the parties concerned (minister, church, or minority of the church) they may appeal the case to the district elders' body. If a satisfactory solution is not reached, appeal may be made to the Standing Committee of Annual Conference.

For further guidance see the section on counseling and discipline under "Brotherhood Organization," in the minutes of the 1947 Annual Conference.

II. Procedures in Vacancies and Appointments

1. Extending a Pastoral Call. The pastoral board or committee shall be the official medium through which the congregation shall investigate and negotiate with ministers nominated or recommended for pastoral services in the church.

This board or committee shall seek nominations as suggested in item 2. Having investigated the qualifications of ministers recommended, they shall agree upon one person only whom they shall recommend to the church to employ as pastor. They may consider various persons whose names are presented to them, but only one name shall be given and recommended to the church in council for pastoral employment. When a recommendation is not approved by the church, the local pastoral board shall further study the possible nominees and agree upon another whom they shall recommend to the church in another properly announced council. In no case should a church negotiate with two or more ministers at the same time; neither should it vote on one or the other of two candidates.

Church councils for the consideration of pastoral employment should be publicly announced at least ten days in advance. If the ten-day advance announcement is impossible, advance announcement may be made by mail to each family, giving the nature and the time of the meeting. This variation should have the approval of the elder, the local ministerial board, and the district ministerial board or secretary. Councils should be called to accept or reject the recommendation of the pastoral board. Such recommendations should be unanimous on the part of the board. Voting in all such councils should be by ballot and should require at least a three-fourths majority to extend the call. The pastoral board may extend a call to a minister to become pastor of the church, upon the terms agreed upon by the ministerial board and the prospective pastor, with the approval of the church. It is well if the call can be made unanimous.

2. Pastoral Nominations. Churches desiring a pastor or a change of pastors, and ministers desiring to enter pastoral service, to transfer to a different field, or to consider a call received from a church, should notify the placement agencies, that is, the district ministerial board or ministerial secretary and the regional secretary or ministerial secretary.

It is desirable that, in so far as possible, placement nominations for position come through the district board, in consultation with the regional secretary. The brotherhood secretary will serve as needed in co-ordination between regions. When men are desired for call across regional lines, clearance should be made between the secretaries of the regions involved before the prospect has been contacted.

Care should be taken in appealing to pastors who have not indicated any desire to change locations, lest their pastoral service be interrupted prematurely with loss to the work of the Kingdom. The district, regional, or brotherhood secretary should be aware of the situation and be prepared to give guidance in such approaches.

It shall be understood that the pastoral board of the local church has the right, after clearance with the district ministerial board and other placement persons, to submit as a nomination the name of any particular minister of the Church of the Brethren in whom the congregation is especially interested and to whom the committee can give unanimous support. It is the practice and policy of the Church of the Brethren to call as a pastor only one who is a minister in good standing in the Church of the Brethren.

3. Terminating a Pastorate

a. At the minister's initiative. The minister may for sufficient reasons and of his own initiative terminate his pastorate by resignation. The resignation should be presented to the pastoral board or corresponding board after careful counseling with them and/or the district and regional placement persons. Such counseling may help give him objectivity and wise guidance in the problems he faces. The pastoral board should receive and discuss the resignation before giving it to the church. Such discussion may reveal ways of adjusting conditions which caused the resignation to be made. If the resignation seems timely, they will help the church to receive it kindly, so that the pastoral change can be made without disturbing the unity and welfare of the church. The pastoral board should present the pastor's resignation to the congregation.

b. At the pastoral board's initiative. The pastoral board of the congregation or corresponding board may, for sufficient cause, suggest to the pastor the advisability of pastoral change. Care should be taken to be sure of the evidence; it should be more than rumor or hearsay. It would be wise if this were first discussed with the district, regional, or national placement persons. In cases where such suggestion is made to the pastor, he should have reasonable opportunity for consultation and should have opportunity to resign. Here, again, wise counseling with the pastor and/or the church may prevent disharmony in the church.

c. By vote of the church. If the pastor does not see fit to resign, the pastoral board, or corresponding board, should have authority, if they feel the best interests of the church demand it, to call for a vote on the question of retaining the pastor. Councils for considering this question should be called in the same manner as those for extending a pastoral call. The vote should be taken by ballot and require a three-fourths majority to retain the pastor. After official notice of a negative vote, the pastor will have from three to four months to be placed elsewhere. Churches should be considerate in not working a hardship upon the pastor and his family. Councils for considering pastoral change should be publicly announced at least ten days in advance and should be called for the purpose of accepting or rejecting the recommendation of the pastoral board.

III. DUTIES OF MINISTERIAL BOARDS AND SECRETARIES

1. The Local Pastoral Board. We recommend that the local church create a board or committee charged with ministerial responsibility, according to one of the plans suggested by the 1947 Annual Conference; that is, a board of administration, or a pastoral or ministerial board.

(See the Annual Meeting minutes, 1947, report on "Brotherhood Organization.")

a. It shall represent the local church in pastoral relationships. It shall receive nominations for pastor, investigate candidates, carry on negotiations with nominees, and assist in pastoral changes as outlined in Section II, items 7, 8, and 9. It shall work closely with and under the advice and counsel of the district board and other placement persons.

b. It shall arrange for a proper farewell for the outgoing pastor and a reception and service of installation for the new pastor, inviting a district ministerial board member to be present if possible. Everything possible should be done to develop an enthusiasm and loyalty in the church for the new pastor.

c. It shall serve as an advisory board to the pastor. Regular periodic meetings should be held once each quarter or more often in which the interests, the welfare, and the future of the work and of the church-pastor relationship can be discussed. Frank and sympathetic sharing in these meetings may do much to promote the continued good relationships of the church to its pastor.

d. It shall seek to educate the congregation in the ethics of church-pastoral relationships and to maintain the ideas set forth in our code of ethics for congregations and ministers.

e. It shall, in co-operation with the district ministerial board or ministerial secretary, seek to discover worthy talent in the local congregation and lend encouragement in their selection of the ministry as a lifework and in pursuing training for it.

f. It shall counsel with the pastor and arrange for the supply of the pulpit when the pastor must be away or is incapacitated for service. It shall counsel with him and arrange for special speakers, evangelists, etc.

g. It shall carefully consider with the pastor the terms of his employment and interpret these to the congregation. The use of the "Record of Agreement" for pastors is strongly recommended. These can be secured from the regional secretary or the brotherhood office.

2. The District Ministerial Board

a. It shall co-operate with the local pastoral boards, the regional secretary and the secretary of the Ministry and Home Mission Commission of the General Brotherhood Board in the placement, supervision, and transfer of pastors.

b. It shall seek to discover worthy ministerial talent among young people of the district and lend encouragement in their selection of the ministry as a lifework and in pursuing training for it.

c. It shall supervise the licensing of candidates for the ministry with the approval of the local congregation, after careful counseling procedure to be assured of the fitness of the candidate for the office.

d. It shall supervise the ordination of licentiates to the full ministry, upon the approval of the local congregation and the district elders' body when the licentiate has shown evidence of worthiness in carrying greater responsibility in the work of the church, has completed training and/or is ready for active service in the work of the church.

e. It shall make provision for the ordination to the eldership of those ministers approved by district elders' body.

f. It shall co-operate with pastoral boards in the proper installation of pastors, in the development and maintenance of harmonious relationships between pastors and churches, and in the education of churches in the ideals set forth in our code of ethics.

g. It shall investigate and pass upon applications for ministerial relief from the district.

h. It shall co-operate with churches in adjusting difficulties which may arise affecting ministers or pastors.

i. It shall co-operate with the Ministry and Home Mission Commission of the General Brotherhood Board in the survey of local churches, in keeping on file proper records for the district, and in such other work as may strengthen the ministry of the church.

j. It shall provide district assistance to pastors and churches without pastors in reporting annually and correctly the data called for on the annual report.

k. It shall provide district assistance to local churches or pastors in evaluating and reporting the "inactive" and "nonresident" members, as well as those "dropped" from membership, in an effort to secure the most helpful results and the most meaningful reports.

l. It shall set up training conferences, district or sectional, to train local pastoral boards for their work.

m. It shall arrange on-the-job training conferences for pastors of the district.

n. Where a district ministerial secretary carries the ministerial function or responsibility for the district, he shall act in the capacities outlined above for the district ministerial board.

3. The Regional Secretary or Ministerial Secretary

a. He shall work with the district ministerial boards or secretaries in matters of placement, supervision, and transfer.

b. Working in co-operation with the district ministerial board or secretary or the local pastoral board, he shall furnish nominations to them for pastor for a local church of the said district.

c. He shall work with district ministerial boards or secretaries in the promotion of desirable church-pastor relationships and the general well-being of the churches.

d. He shall seek to stimulate a wholesome spirit and program of evangelism in co-operation with all concerned.

e. He shall assist district boards or secretaries in on-the-job training conferences for ministers and conferences for pastoral boards.

f. He shall attend meetings of district boards to give counsel and suggestions for enriching and more effectively administering the work

g. He shall work closely with the seminary, the college(s) of th region, and the brotherhood ministerial secretary in placement an supervision of summer pastors.

4. The Secretary of Ministry and Home Missions

a. He shall co-operate with the regional secretaries and district an local ministerial boards or secretaries in all matters pertaining to pastora enlistment, placement, supervision, and transfer. He shall seek to hel co-ordinate the pastoral supply and demand from one region to another

b. He shall make an annual survey of the churches and keep a careful file of data concerning congregations and ministers, and provide *Yearbook* material concerning the ministry and the churches of the brotherhood.

c. He shall seek to enrich the ministry of the church through conferences and institutes and to maintain proper spiritual and educational standards for those who would qualify for the ministry of the church.

d. He shall visit the regions and the districts in order to present the program of the brotherhood and especially to inspire and encourage the regional boards and district ministerial and other boards in their work.

e. He shall co-operate with the Christian Education Commission, Bethany Biblical Seminary, and our colleges in giving every possible assistance to promising young men during their years of preparation for the ministry of the church.

f. He shall supervise and administer the brotherhood program of home missions for the Ministry and Home Mission Commission of the General Brotherhood Board, in co-operation with regional and district boards.

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Statement adopted as revised by the committee. The matter of the pastoral year in section I-5 was excepted. This was referred to a special study committee for report next year. Committee: Ora DeLauter, J. Clyde Forney, J. Herbert Miller.

NOTE: The report of the special study committee is found under "Date for the Pastoral Year," 1952 minutes.

Our Over-all Program

Query, 1949

Because our church program of necessity is partially formulated by circumstances and pressures, we petition Annual Conference through the District of Southern California and Arizona to make a deliberate study concerning what the over-all purpose and direction of the Church of the Brethren should be, considering such matters as the importance of evangelism; our mission program, at home and abroad; the purpose of our service program; our relation to the ecumenical movement; the future of the pastoral system.

Passed in council meeting of the Covina Church of the Brethren, on September 8, 1948.

Mrs. Arvel Larick, Clerk

Answer of district meeting: Passed to Annual Conference.

Jesse Brandt, Secretary

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Referred to the General Brotherhood Board.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1950

During the past two years the General Brotherhood Board has been giving special attention to a study of the over-all program and goals of the church. However, the board is not ready at this time to report on all the questions raised in the query and asks Annual Conference to grant additional time for completion of its report.

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Granted the request for additional time.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1951

While it is true that our church program is partially formulated in response to changing circumstances and pressures, the church must always be sensitive to the changing and emerging needs of men, and must seek promptly new ways of meeting those needs in the name and spirit of Christ.

The General Brotherhood Board has sought constantly to evaluate the changing circumstances and the many claims on the church and has, through committees for research and planning and through prayerful consultation of the board and the staff, attempted to meet urgent needs and at the same time keep a proper balance in the program of the church.

In recent years several committees of the Annual Conference and the General Brotherhood Board have studied "what the over-all program and direction of the Church of the Brethren should be." Therefore, no attempt will be made at this time to propose an all-inclusive statement and the answer will concern itself only with specific items listed in the query.

Evangelism. Evangelism has ever been and is a primary task of the church, taking priority in its planning and program. Evangelism means confronting men, women, and children with Christ in such varied and persuasive ways that they are brought to full, deliberate commitment of themselves to him as Savior and Lord. We must find and use all those methods of evangelism which will effectively achieve this end, and discover new methods of witnessing which are in accord with our Brethren heritage. We must accept our proper share of the total evangelistic responsibility of the whole church of Christ everywhere, and work at it with urgency and complete consecration.

Missions. The essential nature of the Christian experience is the compulsion to share the gospel. This bears fruit in the building of churches and in the nurture of the membership. Furthermore, since missions abroad have been and are a major interest of the Church of the Brethren, as a long-time policy, we would recommend that that program be kept strong and vigorous. In a strong and growing home mission program we should attempt to establish new churches at home in needy places each year. If necessary to meet a grave crisis, the program may be modified but missions should ever remain high in our program.

Brethren Service. The Brethren Service program seeks to achieve peace through the relief of human suffering out of compassion in the spirit of Christ, the reconciliation of nations, races, classes, and creeds which are in conflict with one another; and the building of Christian brotherhood into the very fabric of contemporary society. All service activities are to be carried on in the spirit of Christ and integrated with all other aspects of the program of the Church of the Brethren.

The Ecumenical Movement. In a strong sense of oneness in Christ, we believe it is our duty to join our endeavors with our fellow Christians in a blending of spirit in a co-operative manner. The Church of the Brethren has unique gifts for the larger Christian community. It is our conviction that we are enriched by participation in the ecumenical movement as loyal members of the Church of the Brethren.

The Pastoral System. The Church of the Brethren for many years was served acceptably by the free ministry. Owing to changing conditions the pastoral system of ministry has been adopted to a large extent throughout our brotherhood. We believe that a consecrated, trained pastoral ministry, properly supported both financially and with the co-operative efforts of the membership, will be the most efficient ministry in making the church an effective influence in the community through an adequate organization of its resources for worship, fellowship, and service.

We would strongly insist on the full co-operation of laity and ministry to provide for each church the best possible leadership and the most complete participation of the entire membership.

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Report accepted.

Participation in the Love Feast

Query, 1950

The Roxbury congregation assembled in regular council August 3 1949, requests Annual Conference, through district meeting of Western Pennsylvania, to restate the policy of our church concerning the participation of members of other evangelical Christian churches in our love feast

William E. Hayes, Clerk

Answer of district conference: Passed to Annual Conference.

John D. Ellis, Clerk

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Referred to a committee for study and report next year. Committee: Ralph E. White (convener), George Detweiler, F. E. Mallott, H. L. Ruthrauff, W. H. Yoder.

Report of the Committee, 1951

The Church of the Brethren regards the observance of the Lord's Supper as one of the important ordinances of the Christian church and recognizes this ordinance as a Christian family rite, symbolizing the unity and fellowship which believers have with Christ and with one another (John 13:8; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 17; 1 Corinthians 11:28-34).

In the observance of the communion we are reminded of the sacrificial death of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:26), and in the emblems we find the source of renewed spiritual life (John 6:53, 56).

While every Christian is admonished to examine himself before participating in this sacred service (1 Corinthians 11:28), we would also urge pastors and elders of congregations to give wise counsel and instruction to all communicants preparatory to the love feast.

Some of our congregations permit those of other evangelical denominations to participate in the love feast, thus recognizing them as members of the family of Christ.

We, therefore, would recommend to the Annual Conference that local churches, where they so desire, may extend to evangelical Christians the privilege of participating in the love feast.

F. E. Mallott, Secretary

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Report adopted as amended.

Pastoral Apprenticeship

Query, 1950

The district conference of Idaho and Western Montana assembled at Bowmont, Idaho, October 28-30, 1949, petitions Annual Conference as follows:

Inasmuch as beginning pastors would benefit from practical experience in addition to theological training, and inasmuch as inexperienced men often become discouraged when they come face to face with practical problems and often leave the pastoral work because of the discouragements, costing the church good men and retarding the church program; and because of the fact that the Church of the Brethren does not provide close supervision for its young pastors, we petition Annual Conference to appoint a committee to study and present a plan for pastoral apprenticeship.

C. E. Flory, Clerk

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Granted the request for a committee to study the matter and report next year. Committee: Ralph E. White (convener), George Detweiler, F. E. Mallott, H. L. Ruthrauff, W. H. Yoder.

Report of the Committee, 1951

A study of our needs for pastoral apprenticeships reveals certain problems inherent in trying to suggest any comprehensive program, such as:

1. A shortage of ministers to furnish even one minister to a church.
2. The difficulty in securing well-qualified supervision.
3. A shortage of adequate funds to carry on a comprehensive program
4. The fact that there are relatively few large churches in the Church of the Brethren.

However, we realize that the church and its ministry could be profited by a pastoral apprenticeship plan. The value of the plan was fully demonstrated in a former day in the training which some of our ministers received under the guidance of wise and able elders or older ministers in the free ministry plan. We believe that an apprenticeship plan should include the following:

1. Wider use of training young ministers under the guidance of older ministers who have done outstanding work.
2. Wider use of field-secretaries as supervisors.
3. Finding and enlisting a larger number of churches which are able and willing to support such a program, of which we have several examples. Thought should also be given to finding and training the kind of young people who can make a contribution to the church served.
4. Wider use of students from colleges and seminary in adjacent churches with adequate supervision and a recognition that such service has some part in a thorough training.
5. Grouping churches where possible similarly as in the larger parish plan and using partly trained people under the direction of someone who is more fully trained.

We recognize that to a large extent the carrying out of any such plan will rest largely in the hands of those charged with church administration; so we recommend that the Ministry and Home Mission Commission of the General Brotherhood Board, district mission boards or boards dealing with this problem, and the colleges and the seminary include plans for apprenticeship training as parts of their programs and put the plans into operation as far as they are able.

F. E. Mallott, Secretary

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Report accepted.

Peace Education and Promotion

Whereas there appears to be need for clear and comprehensive interpretation of the historic Brethren Biblical principles of peace and nonresistance in the light of prevailing secular thought and patterns of living,

The district conference of the Second District of Virginia, assembled at Bridgewater, Virginia, March 30, 1951, petitions Annual Conference:

1. To clarify and interpret its previous decisions on peace and nonresistance in the light of present needs.

2. To renew the policy of providing adequate assistance and guidance to districts and regions through peace consultants or through such other plans and programs as Conference may approve.

3. To commend our colleges for such courses on peace and nonresistance as are now being offered in their curricula, and to request all our church colleges to strengthen their offerings in this important area of our life and heritage.

M. R. Wolfe, Secretary

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: It is considered that the 1948 statement on "Position and Practice of the Church of the Brethren in Relation to War" is the answer to point one. On point two we urge our youth and adults to support the current efforts of the General Brotherhood Board in peace education and counseling, by taking advantage of institutes, workshops, and camp programs on peace. We do indeed commend our colleges for the place which they are giving to peace in their curricula and we would encourage them to expand their offerings in this field as much as practicable.

Revision of the Brotherhood Organization

Query, 1949

Standing Committee recommends that Annual Conference appoint a committee of three to consider needed revisions to the report of the Commission of Fifteen adopted at the 1946 and 1947 Annual Conferences, and to bring recommendations next year.

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Request granted. Committee: Rufus D. Bowman, chairman, Harry K. Zeller, Jr., secretary, William M. Beahm.

Report of the Committee, 1950

This committee met on December 20, 1949, and gave careful consideration to the report of the Commission of Fifteen as to areas in need of revision. It also considered a number of suggestions from various sources for revision or amendment.

1. The committee recommends to the Annual Conference that a committee be appointed periodically, or constituted on a permanent basis, to prepare revisions of the organizational structure for the consideration of Annual Conference.

2. The Committee also recommends the following proposed revisions to the published booklet, *Brotherhood Organization, Church of the Brethren.* [NOTE: Since only one revision recommended in the 1950 report of the committee was adopted by the Annual Conference, it is the only one included here.]

UNDER "THE LOCAL CHURCH"

V. Officials of the Church

B. Elder-in-charge or Moderator of the Local Church

The elder-in-charge of a local church should seek to be helpful to the pastor and to the church in every way he can. It is his responsibility to preside at all general business sessions or council meetings unless he has designated someone to serve in his stead. He is the moderator of the local church and should work co-operatively and carefully with the local church board in administering the church program. Consecrated and able laymen may be called by the church to become moderators of local churches, in which case they would perform the functions outlined above.

Congregations which choose their moderator from the laity shall secure confirmation from the district board of administration or from the district elders' body.

Action of 1950 Annual Conference: After some editorial revisions made by the committee the following motion was passed: That we adopt [the] recommendation [V-B under "The Local Church"] and appoint a committee of three as provided in the recommendation and recommit the remainder of this report along with the Orlando Conference report, to be edited, revised, and harmonized with the democratic concept of Brethren procedure and reported to the Conference of 1951. Committee: C. N. Ellis (convener), William M. Beahm, Galen B. Ogden.

Report of the Committee, 1951

In accordance with the action of the 1950 Annual Conference, the committee submits to the 1951 Annual Conference the following recommended revisions of the 1946 and 1947 Annual Conference actions as contained in the pamphlet, *Brotherhood Organization; Church of the Brethren.* [NOTE: Only the adopted revisions are included in this report; those interested in seeing the details of the original organization may refer to the 1947 minutes, under "Brotherhood Organization."]

UNDER "THE GENERAL BROTHERHOOD BOARD"

V. Tenure of Office

Each board member shall be eligible for re-election for a second term. The normal term of office shall be for five years. A former board member is eligible for re-election one year after his retirement from the board. Any portion of a normal term shall be considered as a term. (This is an editorial revision and eliminates the sentences having to do with the inaugural steps of the new organization.)

VII. How the General Brotherhood Board Will Function

(This change of number is to allow for the insertion of the following addition as VI.)

VI. Method of Election

The Standing Committee shall nominate two persons for each vacancy. Elections shall be by majority vote of the delegate body in regular session. (This is an addition to clarify procedure in harmony with former action of Annual Conference. See the minutes for 1945.)

UNDER "ANNUAL CONFERENCE"

F. Functions of Standing Committee

4. To serve as the nominating committee for Annual Conference officers, General Brotherhood Board members, and Annual Conference committees. The Standing Committee may use its own procedures in preparing the ballot. Further nominations may be made from the floor by the delegate body. (An editorial revision to clarify a point raised about Standing Committee's procedure.)

III. Moderator

A. Qualifications

(Item 10 is to be omitted here and included in the following section as added.)

B. Eligibility and Tenure

1. The moderator must be an ordained elder or an ordained minister.

2. Any elder or minister in the Church of the Brethren is eligible to be moderator.

3. The moderator may serve not more than one term in five years.

C. Method of Election

The Standing Committee shall present at least two nominees.

Further nominations may be made by the delegate body. A majority vote is necessary for election.

D. Functions

(The above is a rearrangement and an addition on tenure and method of election in harmony with Annual Conference minutes of 1944.

IV. Alternate Moderator

The alternate moderator shall act as moderator in case the elected moderator cannot serve. He shall serve for the moderator at his request in presiding over Standing Committee and Annual Conference, contacting regional and district conferences, and representing the brotherhood at strategic inter-church conferences. The method of nomination, election, and tenure shall be the same as for the moderator. (This revision is in harmony with the original idea of the alternate moderator, as per Annual Conference minutes of 1944.)

V. The Writing Clerk or Secretary

A. Qualifications and Tenure

1. He shall be an ordained elder or minister.

2. He shall be elected for a three-year term.

B. Functions

He shall record the minutes of Standing Committee and of Annual Conference and shall publish the Annual Conference minutes. He shall interpret the actions of the Annual Conference on problems of the church. He shall serve as a member of the Annual Conference Program Committee and of the Annual Conference Locating Committee. He shall approve the payment of all withdrawals from the Annual Conference treasury.

(The above revisions are in harmony with the listing of qualifications and functions of the other Annual Conference officers. The statement on tenure is a clarification of present procedure. See Annual Conference minutes of 1924.)

VI. The Reader

The Standing Committee shall elect a reader from among their number who shall become the reader of Annual Conference. He shall not serve more than one year in five. The reader shall read distinctly all papers as often as requested. (This revision is a slight editing for consistent form and to clarify procedure in choosing the Conference reader.)

VII. The Program Committee

The program committee shall consist of the moderator of Annual Conference, a staff member selected by the General Brotherhood Board, who may be selected to serve for two years and cannot succeed himself, three members nominated by Standing Committee and elected by Annual Conference for three years with one member's term expiring each year. No member may succeed himself who has served a three-year term. The writing clerk shall be an ex-officio member of this committee.

The program committee shall prepare and publish the program of the Annual Conference; and shall provide the necessary supervision for the most effective presentation of the program. (This is a slight editorial revision and adds the terms of tenure.)

UNDER "THE DISTRICT"

II. The District Elders' Body

1. The district elders' body shall be composed of ordained elders and moderators of local congregations. The elders' body may extend the privileges of the meeting to visiting elders and moderators of local congregations outside of the district.

2. It shall receive reports of the conditions of the churches and shall make recommendations to district meetings in behalf of the spiritual welfare of the churches.

3. It shall be responsible for the ordination of ministers and elders.

4. It shall act as the board of appeal for individual members and for local congregations.

5. It is responsible for the counseling and discipline of ministers and elders.

6. When the authority of the elder or moderator is disputed the elder, moderator, minister, congregation, or board of administration may refer the dispute to the elders' body for decision.

7. The district elders' body shall initiate action in any situation in which it feels it necessary.

8. The authority of the elders' body over moderators of local churches shall be the same as that over ordained elders."

(This revision represents an editorial rearrangement of the material. It changes the term "executive head" to "moderator." Item 7 is added in harmony with Annual Conference minutes, 1942. Item 8 is added to clarify an ambiguity about the status of moderators.)

UNDER "THE LOCAL CHURCH"

III. The Church Board

PLAN TWO

The Officials of the Church

B. Moderator of the Local Church

The moderator of a local church should seek to be helpful to the pastor and to the church in every way he can. It is his responsibility to preside at all general business sessions or council meetings unless he has designated someone to serve in his stead. He should work co-operatively and carefully with the local church board in administering the church program. Consecrated and able laymen or ordained ministers may be called by the church to become moderators of local churches, in which case they would perform the functions outlined above.

Congregations which choose their moderators from the laity shall secure confirmation from the district board of administration or from the elders' body.

(The above revisions represent a change of nomenclature using "moderator" instead of "executive head.")

UNDER "COUNSELING AND DISCIPLINE"

VI. Procedure in Counseling and Discipline

B. Offenses of Ordained Ministers and Elders and Moderators of Local Churches

7. Any minister or moderator has the right of appeal to the Standing Committee of the Annual Conference if not satisfied with the decision of the district elders' body. Until such time as the Standing Committee reverses the decision of the district elders' body their decision stands.

(This adds the term "moderators of local churches" and also clarifie the status of decisions of the district elders' body.)

Calvert N. Ellis (chairman)
William M. Beahm (secretary)
Galen B. Ogden

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Report adopted as revised. Th committee is authorized to bring a further report to the 1952 Conferenc if they so desire and to revise and reprint the pamphlet entitled *Brotherhood Organization* at such time as they deem appropriate.

Statement on Economic Problems

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conferenc the adoption of the following:

STATEMENT OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN ON ECONOMI PROBLEMS

The Church of the Brethren believes that the economic perplexitie of our time require the church to give spiritual and practical guidance The gospel of Jesus Christ must be more fully and successfully applie in this as in all areas of human life. It is doubtful whether any othe area affects the individual more tangibly and immediately. Of hi economic concerns he is most quickly conscious, and by them he is mos quickly moved. Yet the church, which has often sought to guide o regulate more trivial aspects of the individual's conduct, has been slow and even fearful to speak on these larger issues.

I. The Relevance of the Gospel

The gospel of Jesus is relevant to every human motive and act. I has light to throw on every human problem. It brings judgment on ever human error. Economic practices and beliefs can under no circumstance be exempt from the gospel's searching light. In the simpler economi relationships, the Bible made this clear long ago. "Thou shalt not steal and "Thou shalt not covet" are commandments from Sinai (Exodu 20:15, 17). The more elaborate codes of the Old Testament have muc to say about property rights and obligations.

The New Testament emphasizes the supremacy of the spiritual. Bu it does not support the idea that material concerns have no bearing o the spiritual. The cases of the young man with great possession (Matthew 19:16-22), of Ananias (Acts 5:1-11), and of the pious Pharisee who devoured widows' houses (Matthew 23:14) show how certai economic motives and practices can be fatal obstacles to spiritua achievement.

In our own time it is evident that the claims and urgencies o "making a living" affect for good or ill the spiritual welfare of man

A man's economic sins have both spiritual and physical consequences for himself and others. Our urban and rural slums, with their attendant evils of ill-health, juvenile delinquency and crime, immorality and despair show how economic conditions can bring even our children to moral ruin. The preoccupation of millions of our citizens with the effort to "get rich quick" results in such degrading practices as widespread gambling, false advertising, the sale of foolish or even pernicious commodities, and the corruption of government officials.

The individual's concern for livelihood and possessions colors his motives and acts. His economic behavior affects his relationship to his neighbor and his eternal destiny. Thus, the two great commandments—to love God and to love one's neighbor—obligate the church to give guidance to men in their economic affairs.

II. The Present Economic Situation

Our current situation has certain special characteristics which should increase the church's concern. We are in the midst of a great conflict between two widely different economic philosophies. Each has millions of adherents, many of whom believe firmly that their system alone is right.

To one of these our traditions and the extraordinary good fortune of this country encourage us to be intensely loyal. The other is so alien to our traditions that we regard it with horror. But it also has a multitude of loyal adherents, and millions see in its promises a spark of hope for a better life.

Church leaders increasingly realize that it is not wise to bless one system without reservation while totally condemning the other. To do so makes the church a partisan in a struggle which threatens the world with untold tragedy. Moreover, the church thus endorses evils in our system which cannot be condoned. It is the church's business, instead, to measure all things by the gospel of Jesus and so to proclaim the will of God.

There is another alarming aspect in the present situation. The temptation to go to war stems not alone from the threat of external attack. It stems also from the threat of depression and unemployment, evils which persistently recur in our present system. It is tragic indeed that our economic ingenuity has as yet devised no other means than war to assure full employment and economic security. Yet, today there are people who look toward another war with some degree of welcome because they think it will mean prosperity.

This strange perversion of values is the outgrowth of still another distressing characteristic of our time—materialism. An age of great inventions and discoveries, when marvelously intricate machines are devised for production, when the hidden secrets of the universe are probed, when the very barriers of space itself are crumbling, is, nevertheless, an age when men are but little concerned about thei Creator or his eternal values. Millions of men, neither moved nc inspired by our great discoveries, lose themselves in the pursuit c personal pleasure and gain.

A final characteristic of our present world is the continue existence of misery and want. In spite of the ingenuities of mas production, even now a substantial part of our population is ill housed, ill-clothed, and ill-fed. Other portions of the world are i far worse circumstances. The gospel teaches Christians to shar with those less fortunate than themselves. We must recall the iron of James concerning those who piously say, "Be ye warmed an filled," without taking any practical steps to give aid (James 2:16) The church must encourage constructive criticism of any systen however excellent, which continues to be trailed by want, ignoranc and despair.

If our economic beliefs and practices produce these sad result how can the church valiantly and uncritically defend them? Is not rather the church's place to seek for their causes and for mean of correcting them?

III. Christian Economic Principles

The church recognizes the complexity of current economic issue When experts disagree, it is understandable that church leaders wh are not themselves experts hesitate to speak. Yet, basic Christia principles are within the understanding of the average Christian jus as the effects of our present economic situation are within his power of observation.

The Sermon on the Mount, the Golden Rule, the twelfth chapte of Romans, the letter of James, and, in fact, the entire New Testamen give us not only specific precepts but also a general atmosphere an spirit which is the spirit of Christ. The church can bless only thos economic beliefs and practices which harmonize with this spirit.

The Church of the Brethren presents the following application of basic Christian principles to our economic life:

1. It is not the church's place to ally itself with any particula system. The name of a system is not important; what it does is ver important. The virtues and the faults of any system must be examine in the light of Christian teaching.

2. Every person physically and mentally able to work should contribute a fair share of labor to the good of society in the steady effor to fulfill his Christian vocation.

3. Every person able to work should have the opportunity to do sc It should be possible for a willing person to find work suited to hi capacities and to earn a decent living for himself and his dependent

4. Work should be done under conditions which are as healthfu

safe, interesting and gratifying as the nature of the work permits. Man's inventiveness should be employed to improve these conditions as quickly and as fully as possible.

5. Educational facilities should be available for every youth to develop his abilities to the point where he can be of the greatest use to society and to God.

6. Efficient and ample production of wholesome commodities is desirable. The benefits of such production should be enjoyed by society as a whole, not merely by a small minority. If production no longer requires long hours of labor from the average worker, earnings should be sufficient for his needs and the wholesome, constructive use of his leisure.

7. The desire for security, economic advancement, and prestige must be subject to Christian self-control to avoid injury to others or to society as a whole. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:39). For the sake of his neighbor the Christian will limit his personal wants.

8. The church cannot approve national economic policies which injure other nations. Trade barriers or monopolies which prevent equitable distribution of needful goods at fair prices are wrong. The sharing of technical knowledge with the more-backward areas of the world is Christian.

9. The idea that the profit motive is and must be the mainspring of human endeavor is contrary to Christian teaching.

10. The possession of wealth out of all proportion to a person's needs or to his contribution to society cannot be easily reconciled with the spirit of Christ. Neither can unusual degrees of economic power or control. The legitimate possession of wealth or economic influence must take the form of a stewardship which is sensitive to God's will and the needs of mankind.

11. The production of unwholesome commodities and services and the waste it involves should be abolished. So also should the selfish exploitation of natural resources or of any persons or groups.

12. Since production for war purposes leads either to the destruction of goods and resources (not to speak now of human lives) or to the stagnant waste of these goods, neither war nor preparation for war can be defended on Christian principles.

13. Economic groups having common interests, such as labor, employers, or consumers, have the right to organize to promote their legitimate needs and purposes. The church cannot, however, approve the pursuit of selfish advantage or any practices which injure society or any segment of it.

IV. RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION

Recognizing again that these are complex issues, but also that the Christian gospel is adequate, the church makes the following recommendations for action. They are a beginning, subject to the tests of time and experience. They are to be improved, enlarged, and enriched.

1. Church leaders and the general membership should study the facts of economic life. Appropriate boards, committees, or individuals should be appointed to research on our economic practices, the tensions and conflicts to which they give rise, and possible solutions. This will involve more than the reading of books. Firsthand acquaintance should be made with labor, management, the professions, and consumer groups to understand their various viewpoints.

In the training of ministers and other leaders the impact of economic needs and desires on human behavior must be duly recognized. Our seminary and colleges, as well as the less formal programs of our conferences and camps, should regularly include the economic aspects of the church's task in their curricula.

Likewise, the local church should deal with these issues in pulpit, classroom, and discussion groups.

2. The goal of such study should include the development of informed Christian attitudes on the questions and conflicting claims which arise. Among such attitudes are these: That every individual, regardless of race, creed, sex, or economic status, is a being of infinite potential worth in the sight of God. That Christian love constrains us to be concerned for the entire welfare of all persons and groups. That the Christian must testify for the principles of the gospel in whatever groups he is a member. That every worthy vocation is a form of Christian service. That men are stewards of the knowledge, skills, and wealth which God has given to them.

3. The church should encourage experimentation with new types of economic organization which show promise of exemplifying the Christian ideal more fully. For example, co-operatives, credit unions, and profit-sharing plans deserve more attention.

4. The church must keep its own economic house in order. Since the church itself acts as employer, purchaser, and owner of property, its own practices with respect to wages, hours, pensions, and rentals should be in harmony with Christian principles. A sharing of burdens between those parishes which enjoy few advantages and those which have many should be increasingly practiced in the distribution of leadership, financial aid, and quotas for giving.

5. Regardless of risks or penalties, the church must speak prophetically concerning economic conflict and injustice. It must be ready to mediate between opposing economic groups. It must join hands with other Christian bodies and with worthy secular organizations to work for the increasing realization of a Christian economic order.

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Statement adopted as revised by the committee.

1952, Richmond, Virginia

Bible Training Problem

Query, 1950

The board of directors of Bethany Biblical Seminary requests Annual Conference through Standing Committee to appoint an Annual Conference committee to study the problem of Bible training school work in the Church of the Brethren and report to the next Annual Conference.

This study may well include the effect of independent Bible schools on the Church of the Brethren, a more adequate Brotherhood program for the education of lay workers, the possibilities of increasing extension work from our colleges and the seminary, and the place of Bethany Bible Training School in the future educational program of the church.

Rufus D. Bowman, President
E. G. Hoff, Chairman Board of Directors

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Request granted. Committee: C. Ernest Davis (convener), S. Loren Bowman, T. Wayne Rieman, R. W. Schlosser, Jesse H. Ziegler.

Report of the Committee, 1951

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A. Need for Greater Bible Literacy in the Church

The Church of the Brethren was born out of Bible study. It has sought to base its doctrines and practices solidly on the New Testament. Our understanding of the real teaching of the Scriptures is vital to the spiritual health and progress of our church. We believe that greater Biblical literacy on the part of our people will assist in curing whatever ills we have. Increased understanding of the Bible will enable us to know our Lord better, correct our errors, and strengthen our spiritual life and program. A love for the Bible and a desire to study and know it are distinct characteristics of our people at their best.

B. Effect of Negative, Subversive Teaching

Unfortunately, this very eagerness to learn has sometimes left us wide open to the approaches of would-be-teachers of the Word who, despite their pretensions of love for the Bible, exactness of understanding, and finality of interpretation, have actually led many astray from the heritage of Biblical doctrine and practice that has come down to us in the Church of the Brethren, through a long line of faithful students and teachers of the Word, a heritage that, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has been tested by time and experience.

These false teachers often stress the letter which kills but neglect the spirit which gives life (2 Corinthians 3:6). Ignoring basic principles of literary interpretation, they, with great zeal, have wrested the Scriptures to the upsetting of the faith of many and the disruption of the peace of entire congregations.

These successors of the false teachers of the apostolic age whom Paul branded as "dogs" and "evil workers" (Philippians 3:2) today effectively sow discord among brethren (Proverbs 6:19) as they creep into houses and lead astray silly women and unwary men. Even the old motive, "for filthy lucre's sake" (Titus 1:11), seems often to be present not merely as greed for personal income but in the subtler and more dangerous form of seeking to wrap the cloak of religion around serious inequities in our social, economic, and political organizations and operations. It is high time for us to understand that the attitudes of the Master must be found in all who would interpret his message.

C. Sources of Infection

There are many sources of infection from erroneous Bible teachings and interpretations. Tracts, books, magazines and publications of unsavory and divisive character, and radio speakers and traveling preachers and lecturers that pretend great loyalty to the Scriptures but warp and twist the real message of the Bible and misinterpret the very spirit of Christ are among the serious offenders. Posing as teachers, they need that someone teach them. Parading as messengers of light, they are actually leading their followers back into the darkness and slavery of unscriptural concepts that make a mockery of Christian truth and doctrine. Sometimes this source of infection even takes the organized form of an independent Bible school of dubious character which poisons the minds of the students and then sends them forth as ministers and church workers, to confuse and misguide the unsuspecting.

D. More Effective Teaching Needed

Clearly we need a program that will protect us administratively from multiplying and maintaining the ministry of false teachers and that, positively, will teach our people the Bible in a more effective way, enabling them not just to trust, but to "try the spirits whether they are of God" (1 John 4:1). This teaching program, by replacing our inadequate understanding with more abundant knowledge and insights, will enable us more certainly to "be not moved away from the hope of the gospel" which we have heard but to "continue in the faith grounded and settled" (Colossians 1:23), holding "fast the form of sound words" which we have received (2 Timothy 1:13) and the "traditions which [we] have been taught" (2 Thessalonians 2:15). Only the competency which emerges from such a program of sound Bible study and teaching will enable us to overcome the eating canker of false doctrines (2 Timothy 2:15-18).

II. A PROGRAM FOR MEETING THE PROBLEM

We suggest the following as elements in a projected program of Bible teaching for the church:

A. More Bible Teaching in Local Churches

In order that the lay membership of our church may not fall into erroneous teaching subversive of the peace of the church, we recommend:

1. That where uniform Sunday-school lessons are used, a genuine effort be made to use them more effectively.

2. That elective units should be used in the Sunday school to provide a more balanced emphasis upon the fundamental Bible doctrines. Such elective units should find wider use in midweek services also.

3. That congregations or groups of congregations arrange a minimum of twenty hours a year when all their members can come together for a systematic study of the great doctrines of the Bible, or the books of the Bible, under the leadership of a competent teacher who is in sympathy with the beliefs and program of the Church of the Brethren. This can be accomplished by the concentrated work of institutes and retreats—or by a weekly session over a period of weeks.

4. That classes be arranged for young people desiring to study ordinances of the church, with reference to specific Brethren teachings. These should be set up by congregational units — or by a group of churches located close together. Teachers of such classes would discover the best talent among our young people and could be instrumental in their going on to college or to Bethany Training School.

5. That regional councils assume the responsibility for planning and sponsoring such a program in their respective districts and churches. The councils should suggest suitable courses of study and develop a list of capable teachers who would be available to the churches. We believe that such courses would be self-sustaining, but, should any deficit occur, the regional council should provide what additional help is needed.

B. Continuation of the Bible Training Program in Our Colleges

We commend our colleges for their continuing efforts to provide educational opportunities within the framework and atmosphere of the Christian faith.

We believe that a man who does not understand the Hebrew-Christian tradition and who has not made a serious study of its literature and institutions is not an educated man.

We recommend to our colleges:

1. The continuation of Bible requirements for graduation and an

extension of these to include every student regardless of the course in which he enrolls.

2. An extension of offerings which will especially train students for service in the local church. Such courses ought to include:

   a. The art of worship
   b. Teaching in the church school
   c. Youth and the Christian church
   d. The Christian family
   e. The purpose and program of the church
   f. The Christian faith
   g. History of the Church of the Brethren
   h. Music in the local church

3. That only teachers who have a Christian philosophy of life be selected.

4. That every effort be made to provide warm religious experience and meaningful religious activities for the students.

5. That they make available, to the greatest possible extent, their facilities and faculty members for conferences, leadership training retreats, and Bible institutes.

C. Future of the Bible Training School

1. The following facts are relevant in making a decision:

a. The Training School has produced directly some men who are rendering excellent service to the church.

b. For the last ten years the Training School has sent an average of twelve students, with a range of six to nineteen students, each year to college, many of whom otherwise never would have gone into a Brethren college.

c. The Training School satisfies in some earnest church people the desire to attend "Bible school."

d. Classes for seminary students' wives who are not college graduates would be necessary whether or not the Training School continues to operate in Chicago.

e. Economic aid due to ready employment makes it possible for some to start their higher education who would otherwise be deprived.

f. The Training School satisfies the need of the older married person for training for church service and could do more.

g. If the Training School continues in its present location, it would be possible to provide courses in Bible and the Christian faith for nurses in training in the proposed Nurses' Training School authorized by Conference in conjunction with Bethany Hospital.

h. The Training School is not at present adequately staffed to offer enough courses to fit the needs.

i. Accreditation agencies will likely require further divorce of the Training School from the Seminary.

j. A wide gap in educational background between some Training School and Seminary students causes some strains.

k. Physical facilities such as library, classrooms, and housing are taxed to capacity.

l. Needs of the Seminary alone point toward the erection of a combined classroom-library-administration building within five to eight years.

2. Recommendations: A careful weighing of all relevant factors leads us to make the following recommendations:

a. The Training School should continue to be the central Bible training school for the church.

b. The Training School should remain in Chicago under the over-all administration of the Seminary.

c. Steps should be taken to effect a further separation of the Training School from the Seminary.

(1) A separate dean for the Training School would seem advisable.

(2) Separate classroom, office, and housing facilities should be allocated as soon as possible. Early erection of the building mentioned in C-1-1, the need for which is indicated, will help to make this separation possible.

(3) The Training School should be renamed to eliminate confusion between attendance at and graduation from the Training School or the Seminary.

d. The Training School curriculum should be enriched by providing courses in religious art and such other additional fields as the church may desire.

e. The present restrictive policy should be changed so that solicitation for suitable students for the Training School may be allowed.

f. A nominal tuition charge should be made to all Training School students.

g. More clearly defined relation between Training School courses offered and college curricula should be worked out to facilitate transfer to college where that seems desirable.

h. The Training School should add at least one additional person to the staff and another should be anticipated with the increase in the Training School student body.

i. A minimum age for entrance to the Training School should be set at twenty and additional supervisory and counseling personnel should be assigned to Training School students.

j. A minimum of 10,000 annually should be added to the grant from the Brotherhood Fund to the Seminary-Training School budget for operating the increased program of the Training School when fully inaugurated.

k. Solicitation of $50,000 should be authorized for the purchase of an additional apartment building for providing needed housing fo Training School students.

C. Ernest Davis, Chairman
S. Loren Bowman, Secretary
T. Wayne Rieman
R. W. Schlosser
Jesse H. Ziegler

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: A section on the calling an placing of ministers and pastors was deleted because the matter already cared for in other papers. The report was then spread on th minutes for one year in order to allow the Bethany electors to examin its implications and possibilities.

Report of the Bethany Board of Directors, 1952

The board of directors of Bethany Biblical Seminary, after a carefu study of the recommendations of the Annual Conference committe appointed to study the Bible Training School problem, makes th following report:

1. The board of directors finds in the report of the Annual Confer ence Committee a valuable and factual statement regarding the nee of more Biblical and doctrinal teaching throughout our church.

2. The board of directors also believes that the statements unde C-1, "Future of the Bible Training School," represent a correct analys of the present situation.

3. The board of directors, however, sees serious problems in a grea ly expanded Bible Training School program in connection with th Seminary.

a. Priority of the Seminary. Recognizing the desirability of a expanded Bible Training School, the board of directors neverthele regards the Seminary as primary. It holds that the Seminary interes must be adequately safeguarded in any new plans and development

b. Present Budget Increase. The board of directors has had to as for a $10,000 increase from the Brotherhood Fund to cover increase costs and a modest strengthening of the Seminary and the Bible Trainin School of the present size, making a total asking of $70,000 for curre expenses.

c. Budget Requirements for an Expanded Bible Training School. A expanded Training School would call for at least two new teachers an at least $10,000 more per year to operate the increased program.

d. Student Housing. An expanded Bible Training School woul require the building of a new apartment building for housing. The mo economical procedure of purchasing an apartment building would n be feasible under present laws, for the school would have no right vacate the apartments in order to put students in them.

e. School Equipment. In order to provide necessary facilities and make possible the required separation between Seminary and Training School, the classroom-library-administration building would need to be built before there could be an expanded Bible Training School. C-1-1 of the report indicates that the Seminary needs alone may require this building in from five to eight years. The expanded Bible Training School would hasten the need and make a larger building necessary.

It appears to the board of directors that nothing short of a ground swell of interest in an enlarged training school could justify a decision to proceed with these two buildings and realignment of percentages in allotments in the Brotherhood Fund necessary to the maintaining of the enlarged institution in lean years as well as fat ones.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The board of directors therefore recommends to Annual Conference that the C-2 recommendations of the [1951] report be revised to read as follows:

a. That the Bible Training School continue to be the central Bible Training School for the church.

b. That the Training School remain in Chicago under the over-all administration of the Seminary.

c. That for the present the Bible Training School be modestly strengthened rather than expanded, and that increased effort be made to get into it the people whose training would be most useful to the church.

d. That feasible steps be taken to effect a further separation of the Bible Training School from the Seminary.

(1) By the appointment of a separate dean for the Bible Training School—one of our present faculty men.

(2) By realigning classroom, office, and housing facilities and looking toward the erection of the classroom-library-administration building in the not-too-distant future.

e. That the Training School curriculum be restudied and enriched.

f. That a nominal tuition charge be made to all Training School students.

g. That the enrollment of the Training School should not exceed one hundred students per year, the number that may possibly be housed within our present buildings. Recruiting for the Bible Training School should be carried on from the ranks of mature church workers who cannot go to college.

h. That as a general rule the minimum age of entrance to the Bible Training School be twenty.

This recommended strengthening of the Bible Training School can be put into operation in the school year of 1952-1953, provided the increased budget item of $70,000 from the Brotherhood Fund is provide

E. G. Hoff, Chairman

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Report adopted as slightl revised and regarding the board of directors' recommendations as substitute for the C-2 recommendations of the 1951 report of th committee.

Brotherhood Fund Goal, 1952-53

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conferenc the adoption of a Brotherhood Fund goal of $1,260,000 for the yea 1952-1953.

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Adopted the goal as recom mended.

Brotherhood Theme, 1952-54

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conferenc the adoption of a continuous emphasis on evangelism, using for tw years beginning October 1, 1952, the theme, WIN MEN TO CHRIST.

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Adopted the recommende emphasis and theme, together with the following statement on th theme prepared by Desmond W. Bittinger and Harper S. Will:

WIN MEN TO CHRIST

The earnest supplication, "Thy Kingdom come," has always bee at the center of the Disciples' Prayer. Jesus taught it that way to h little band of followers on a hillside in Galilee.

Those first followers yearned for the Kingdom with almost painfu intensity. Their daily condition was steeped in suffering; their long-tim outlook seemed utterly despairing unless God intervened. Their per sistent prayer for the Kingdom ended with the cry, "How long, O Lor how long?"

But even though they walked with Jesus in Galilee, sat with hi in the upper room and witnessed Calvary, they still could not understan how the Kingdom was to come. As Jesus led them up Mt. Ascensio they asked once more, "Will you at this time restore the Kingdom? They expected him to call it out of heaven in some miraculous wa

There on the mountain Jesus clarified for them and for us ho the Kingdom is to come. His words were mountaintop words destine for all times and for all people. "Go ye," said he, "into all the worl and win men to Christ." He did not ask them to go hesitatingly or alone he would go with them. Working in his strength and power, "for Thin is the power," men were to be the instruments in whom and throug whom Christ would build his Kingdom.

That is the way he would still build it. "Go ye and win men t

Christ" is forever the rallying cry of Kingdom building. There is no other way in which it can be done. The Church of the Brethren has recommended for its theme for the next two years this Christian rallying call, WIN MEN TO CHRIST. We suggest that evangelism be at the center of our program of outreach and work. Our leader and source of power will be Jesus Christ; our goal will be to lead men to him that he might redeem them, help them to grow in grace, and use them in his Kingdom.

To this theme and commission we would dedicate ourselves, our time, and our means without restriction or reservation.

Our Stewardship

During the past year the Church of the Brethren has sought to render faithful stewardship in the Master's Kingdom. The groundwork has been laid for a program of evangelism which solicits and merits the participation of every member of the church.

This year the largest group of missionaries to be sent out in any recent year will be consecrated in the name of the Lord. Our overseas work is growing; God's hand of blessing is clearly upholding it. But the work has only begun to reach its fullest possibilities.

In Brethren Service work we have endeavored to be faithful Samaritans along a Jericho road where not one but thousands lie broken in body and in spirit. As we help them to their feet we are also trying to help them do something about the Jericho road itself. We are prepared to enter Korea and Palestine in this spirit as soon as the way opens.

Our program of temperance education and preparation for home and family life has been enlarged.

New churches have been built or improved in home mission areas and in vital sectors of population expansion. Great challenges still await our acceptance.

The Brethren are at work: God's Spirit has been leading and blessing them. Our financial undergirding of this far-flung program has been encouraging. At our last Annual Conference we accepted seriously a financial goal of $1,250,000. So far our giving to support this goal is 23% above what it was during the corresponding period a year ago.

The Year Ahead

Our heavenly Father has shown great faith in us, his children, in that he has placed in our hands the expansion and work of his Kingdom. He has called us to be Kingdom builders with him. "He has no hands but our hands to do his work today."

We dare not fail him. The work of the church must not falter. Christ needs every one of us.

A Brotherhood goal of $1,260,000 is recommended for the year ahead. That is an increase of $10,000 over the goal of the current yea With this amount the Church of the Brethren hopes to carry forwar and enlarge its great Christian work which knows no boundaries an has no turning-back places.

Let us accept the goal that we may *win men to Christ* for his sak Go ye, Brethren, and *win men to Christ.*

Date for the Pastoral Year

NOTE: This item deals with Section I-5 of the query entitle "Ministerial Placement and Policy," considered by the 1951 Conferenc

I-5. The Pastoral Year. The pastoral year begins August 1. N change in pastorates should be contemplated at any other time, excep where conditions arise which may cause injury to the work of th Kingdom or jeopardize in a personal way the welfare of the ministe Such situations should be adjusted by mutual consent of the churc and the minister.

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Answer of the 1951 Annual Conference: Statement adopted a revised by the committee. The matter of the pastoral year in sectio I-5 was excepted. This was referred to a special study committee fo report next year. Committee: Ora DeLauter, J. Clyde Forney, Herbert Miller.

Report of the Committee, 1952

A report before the San Jose Conference suggested the change the pastoral year from September 1—August 31 to August 1—July 3 This suggested change was referred to a committee to study.

From our study the following is apparent:

1. That the majority of the pastors do not see the need for a chang
2. It is also evident that among those who feel that a change woul be good, there is no unity as to what date should be chosen.
3. That no date would be entirely satisfactory.

Therefore the committee feels that we should not change the dat of the pastoral year at this time.

Ora DeLauter (chairman), J. Clyde Forney, J. Herbert Miller

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Equalization of Pastors' Salaries

Query, 1950

Because we believe that the principles of Christian brotherhoo should operate more definitely in the area of church-pastor relationships, we the District of Oregon, assembled in district conference a Portland, October 27-30, 1949, petition Annual Conference through th Standing Committee that a committee be appointed by the Ministr and Home Mission Commission to make a study of a possible plan for the equalization of pastors' salaries throughout the brotherhood.

Mrs. Gladys Faw, Writing Clerk

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Granted the request and the query was referred to the General Brotherhood Board for study and report next year.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1951

The General Brotherhood Board wishes to report progress in the study of equalization of pastors' salaries and to ask another year in which to work further.

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: More time granted.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1952

The General Brotherhood Board has given careful study on the concern of this query. Information has been sought to discover new insights and creative ways of dealing with the problem of a just and equitable payment to all pastors.

We recognize the need to locate strong pastoral leadership in all parishes of the brotherhood regardless of their size or location. Smaller and weaker churches need leadership just as capable as the larger and stronger ones, even though their resources often do not make possible the payment of adequate salaries for such service. The future of the church depends in large measure upon the quality of leadership available to it.

Certain inherent problems tend to make impractical a general wage scale covering all our ministry across our brotherhood.

First, such a plan would necessitate a pooling of funds for pastors' salaries, either on a district or a brotherhood level. Some sort of assessment would need to be made on the basis of numerical and/or financial strength in order to have funds available.

Second, conditions and costs of living, added increments from field and farm, opportunities to supplement by garden or livestock, size and health conditions of family, and demands upon the minister socially and otherwise, all greatly vary the salary necessary in each individual case.

There seem to be other possibilities of dealing creatively with this deep and just concern. We would mention the following:

(1) Wherever a unit, such as a district, desires to do so and can find a satisfactory arrangement, we would encourage creative efforts of equitable salary payment for all. On the district level such a plan may be possible.

(2) The brotherhood and the districts will need to continue to supplement salaries for ministers of smaller churches until they can assume the full support. The present plan is based upon careful

investigation of need, principles of stewardship in the local church and the continuous yearly retirement of such aid.

(3) We believe it is helpful to have a suggested minimum salar scale for the brotherhood. At present this is the case. Such a minimu salary scale should serve as a floor for a minister's salary. It should b revised as national economic conditions change. It should encourag our churches to support our ministers adequately.

(4) In addition to the minimum salary scale we believe both th Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan and the Ministers' Group Lif Insurance and Hospitalization Plan represent steps toward financia security for all our ministers. The Board would encourage all loca churches, pastors, and districts to press toward participation in bot of these brotherhood-sponsored plans.

Further, our churches should be taught by district boards and loca laymen of vision to understand the responsibility of the church t support adequately its minister and to seek creative ways of makin possible a living comparable to the average of the members of th congregation.

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Report adopted as revised.

Literature for Youth

Query, 1951

The Limestone Church of the Brethren, assembled in council Augus 6, 1950, requests the district conference convening at the Jackson Par church, Jonesboro, August 16-18, 1950, to petition the 1951 Genera Conference to appoint a committee to make a study looking towar the improvement of the youth quarterly of our Sunday-school literatur and to explore the possibility of providing helps for Sunday evenin young people's meetings.

Sam Presley, Clerk

Answer of district meeting: Passed by Tennessee district conferenc to General Conference, August 17, 1950.

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Amended to include intermediates and referred to the General Brotherhood Board.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1952

The General Brotherhood Board presents the following answer t the Conference query, "Study of Literature for Youth." It is though that an analysis of our materials and the efforts being made to mee the needs in this area may cover the concerns of the query.

The query called for a study of the *Brethren Youth Quarterly* an the helps provided for Sunday evening young people's meetings. Th Conference action specified including intermediate materials in th study.

The *Brethren Youth Quarterly* is directed to youth of both intermediate and senior ages. It is prepared over the intermediate-senior age group outlines of the Uniform Lesson Series, and is written by our Brethren youth editor, Vernard Eller. Older youth use the *Brethren Adult Quarterly.* It will be apparent that the interests and needs of intermediate and senior youth differ widely, but denominations much larger than ours find it necessary to seek to serve these needs in one publication. The circulation of our *Youth Quarterly*—about 13,000—is too limited to sustain financially even the one publication without loss.

In addition to the *Youth Quarterly* on uniform lessons, we imprint a Brethren edition of closely graded lessons for intermediates. These graded lessons are fitted directly to the needs of intermediates in each year of their growth, and are edited for Brethren use.

Besides these series of lessons we have an elective peace unit for younger youth, *Calling All Peacemakers,* by Gordon Shull, and an elective unit on the church for older youth and adults, *You and Your Church,* by DeWitt L. Miller. Other good elective courses published by other denominations are available. These elective courses are suitable for use either in the Sunday-school hour or at some other time.

We have one Sunday-school paper, *Horizons,* for youth of all ages. It has a circulation of about thirty thousand. A new press has recently made possible the use of two colors in *Horizons* as well as in the children's papers. Much thought has been given to publishing a paper specifically for intermediates, but in a denomination of our size we have not yet seen how this could be done without subsidizing it to the extent of perhaps $10,000 per year. Much intermediate-level material is now included in *Horizons.* The Five Year Meeting of Friends uses our *Horizons* as well as our *Youth Quarterly* in an imprint edition.

Program materials for Sunday evening meetings are carried each month in *Horizons.* These materials are written by many of our best Brethren leaders. Some Friends also contribute. Printing in *Horizons* is the economical way of publishing the program materials. They might well be clipped and filed for future reference when not used immediately. Interests such as the following have been covered in recent months: "The Challenge of the Church," by Dan West; "Christianity South" (Latin America), by Benton Rhoades; "From Friendship to Being in Love," by Jesse Ziegler; "Christians in an un-Christian World," by Gordon Shull; "Stewards of God's World," by Kenneth Morse; "Tremendous Trifles," by Vernard Eller; "Exploring the Bible," by Burton Metzler; "Before You Say 'I Do,'" by DeWitt and Mary Miller; "Missions on Your Doorstep," by Loren Bowman.

The National Youth Cabinet is now studying its organizational structure looking toward a new approach in local CBYF cabinet organization. The new pattern being studied is built around functional program responsibilities and will lift up the total Christian life. Thi reorganization, if adopted, will help the youth fellowships to find greate variety for their Sunday evening programs and will lend itself to more complete Christian witness.

Our editors keep in touch with other denominations in order t share in their experience and utilize such materials of theirs as ar of value to us.

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Report accepted.

Redistribution of Districts

Query, 1949

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conferenc through Standing Committee, the appointment of a committee to stud the matter of redistricting some of our territory in order to give eac district, as much as possible, the financial and leadership strength t make it more nearly indigenous and better equipped to meet an expanding church program.

Annual Conference recognized the need for giving attention to th problem as early as 1924 when a committee was appointed to stud the whole question. This committee reported to the 1928 Annual Conference [see pages 56-60, *Minutes of the Annual Conferences, 1923-1944* No action was taken to implement the report of this committee.

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Authorized the General Brotherhood Board to make such a study.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1950

The General Brotherhood Board is carefully studying the alignmen of districts of the brotherhood but is unable at present to do more tha report progress and ask another year for continuation of the stud In the meantime, the General Brotherhood Board recommends tha wherever districts feel the need of consideration of merger for the be interest of the progress of the church, they be urged to proceed wit such study and such action as they may deem advisable.

We commend the districts of Southwestern Kansas and Northwestern Kansas in their considered action toward merger.

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Granted the request for another year of study.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1951

The General Brotherhood Board reports progress and asks for mor time to continue the study.

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Request for more time wa granted.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1952

There seems to be considerable evidence that some alteration in our district lines and perhaps some shifting of our churches from one district to another would be highly desirable for the effectiveness of the work of the Kingdom.

In 1928 the following recommendations were adopted by Annual Conference:

"I. After a careful study of the field and the work of the state districts, we find some of them small in membership, which tends to discouragement and disintegration. We therefore recommend:

"First. That since there are many advantages for co-operation and supervision in the larger districts, we suggest that districts consider combining where this advantage seems possible, and especially districts with a membership under 750.

"Second. That hereafter no state districts be organized without a membership of at least 750."

We recognize that many of the more important spiritual values cannot be reliably judged by measurable standards. However, we feel that some specific standards are necessary and valuable and therefore suggest the following criteria as valid standards in determining the spiritual condition of districts and guides to assist in working out constructive solutions to the problems of redistribution of districts:

First, Organizing New Districts

a. No new district should be organized (1) without the approval of the district or districts now in existence from whose territory the new district is to be established and (2) without the approval of the Annual Conference, and (3) without careful study as to the apparent strength of the proposed new district. It should have sufficient numerical strength and leadership to make possible a strong nurturing fellowship, and aggressive growth and development.

b. The regional office should be ready to assist and serve in a counseling relationship in working out arrangements for the organization of new districts.

Second, Strengthening Existing Districts

a. If existing districts have grown weak and lack sufficient membership or adequate leadership to provide a vital and aggressive fellowship, steps should be taken by the regional board to conserve the best interests of the churches.

b. In order to change district lines or to shift a church from one district to another, approval should be secured from the districts involved.

Third, Merging Districts

a. A district now in existence desiring to merge with another district, for purposes of more effective administration, acquiring stronger leadership, or strengthening the financial resources, must have the approval of its own district meeting.

b. Such a district may approach the district or districts with which it desires to merge through the respective district boards and/or district meetings or the regional board or boards.

c. Before such a merger can be consummated, both of the merging districts must grant approval to the merger.

Fourth, General Encouragement

Wherever districts feel the need of consideration of merger for the best interest of the progress of the church, they are urged to proceed along the lines suggested above with such study and such action as seem advisable. In all such interests, the regional and brotherhood offices should be kept informed and may be called upon for assistance whenever needed.

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Statement on Alcohol

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference the adoption of the following statement on alcohol.

The Church of the Brethren views with deep concern the enormous proportions which the manufacture, sale, and distribution of alcoholic beverages have reached in recent years. A people cannot live within a culture or social group without being affected to some extent by the beliefs and practices of the group. We, therefore, deem it necessary to restate our position and implement it with a program for the present era.

I. THE PROBLEM

A. The Problem in America

Alcoholism has emerged as one of America's greatest problems. Authorities from Yale University, Allied Youth, and other outstanding organizations estimate that approximately sixty-five to sixty-six million people fifteen years of age and older are drinking. While a great number of these are moderate drinkers, alcoholics are made from the moderate user.

The basic effect of alcohol is upon the moral relationships of people. The use of drugs, such as alcohol, in normal living is a drag upon individual moral character and upon American culture.

B. The Problem in the Church of the Brethren

Available evidence points to the fact that there is a problem of sizable proportion relative to the use of alcoholic beverages by members of our church. The basic problem lies in the inner conflicts created by the necessity of adapting ourselves to a rapidly changing atomic age.

The use of depressant drugs becomes a way of attempting to escape from reality, of delaying the facing of difficult decisions, and/or of covering our problems with a thin veneer that offers no real solution. With alcohol eliminated, the difficulty still remains. We urge our members to go beneath the surface to face the deeper problems and to find creative solutions.

II. Christian Principles

The New Testament appeals to the individual for clean, moral living (Romans 6:12; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17). The individual who uses alcohol places a limitation upon judgment, reason, spirit, and conscience, as well as upon the physical body, in proportion to the amount used and for the period the body contains such a substance. Alcohol causes the individual to be less than his best and, therefore, to fall short of New Testament requirements.

The New Testament challenges every individual to the stewardship of life, time, talents, and money (Matthew 25:14-30). We are required to be faithful stewards (1 Corinthians 4:2). The use of our time, talents, life, or money in the production, distribution, or use of anything that makes life less than the best is a misuse of our stewardship. Alcohol never makes a person better. Christ and the church demand true stewardship.

The church recognizes that the final answer to all problems is in Jesus Christ and his way of life—not in some form of escape mechanism. Freedom from the use of substances such as alcohol tends to assure us of a more complete use of our faculties in meeting life's problems.

Christian principles demand clean, moral living; the stewardship of life, time, talents, and money; and the meeting of our problems by finding our answer in Jesus and his way.

III. Recommendations for Action

A. Our Position in Relation to Alcohol and the Alcohol Problem

The Church of the Brethren has consistently and repeatedly stated its opposition to the manufacture, sale, distribution, and use of alcoholic beverages. We, therefore, recommend and urge Brethren to abstain from the manufacture, sale, or use of alcoholic beverages. We further urge Brethren to refrain from working in the production, distribution, or dispensing of alcoholic beverages for consumption by the individual, or the production or sale of materials to be used in the manufacture of such products. And furthermore, since those groceries, drugstores, restaurants, etc., that do not sell alcoholic beverages lose a very lucrative income thereby, as well as the total trade of those who wish to buy alcoholic beverages while purchasing their groceries, drug supplies, meals, etc., we urge all Brethren to travel a little farther or spend a little more, if necessary, to patronize those enterprises which do no sell alcoholic beverages.

B. Recommendations for Program and Implementation

Educative prevention is the best way to meet the problems o alcohol. Every church should integrate education on alcohol and th alcohol problem into the total educational program of the church. W urge the use of forums, study series, audio-visual aids, scientific information, dramatics, and Commitment Day in our churches and groups We recommend that our churches help youth and adults meet th social pressure to drink by personal spiritual vitality, by supportiv fellowship, by provision of effective group recreation and enterprise and by commendation for abstinence.

The church must also engage in the rehabilitation of those wh use alcoholic beverages. Ministers and laymen should seek, in counselin with people, to meet the needs of the entire individual. Our fellowshi must be one of redemptive love. The church is challenged by Paul "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritua should restore him in the spirit of gentleness" (Galatians 6:1).

CONCLUSION

The use of alcohol and its deleterious effects on a man and societ constitute a problem for the church. The church is called by Jesus Chris to be an example to the world of love, life, and the way of redemption Our task is twofold: by the educative processes and the fellowshi of the brotherhood, to be a preventive agency; and by counseling an redemptive love to be an agency for the rehabilitation and conversio of the users of alcohol. We call the Church of the Brethren to th acceptance and execution of this task.

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Statement adopted as amended

Statement on Tobacco

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conferenc the adoption of the following statement on tobacco.

I. THE PROBLEM

Among the social problems which we recognize, and which affec us, is the widespread use of tobacco. It is estimated that approximatel sixty million Americans use tobacco. There are high economic, physica and sometimes moral costs. For instance, the National Fire Preventio Association reports that smoking causes about 120,000 fires a yea costing approximately $60,000,000. Nicotine, a habit-forming drug, i used primarily to attain a desired effect on the nervous system.

In the Church of the Brethren, available evidence indicates ther is more extensive use of tobacco than of alcohol.

II. Basic Christian Principles

Basic Christian principles apply to all areas of life. The New Testament appeals to the individual for clean, moral living (Romans 6:12; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17). Nicotine affects both the physical body and the mental and moral capacities of man. By causing man to be less than his best physically and mentally, tobacco tends to make him fall short of the New Testament requirements.

Christian principles demand clean, moral living; the stewardship of life, time, talents, and money; and the use of our faculties to meet life's problems. God requires us to be faithful stewards (1 Corinthians 4:2; Matthew 25:14-30). The use of our time, talents, life, or money in the production, distribution, or use of anything that does not assist a man or a woman to be a better person is a misuse of our stewardship. The use of tobacco never makes an individual better. Christ and the church demand true stewardship.

The church has recognized that freedom from the use of substances such as nicotine tends to assure us of a more complete use of our faculties in meeting life's problems.

III. Recommendations for Action

A. Our Position in Relation to Tobacco

Educative prevention is the best solution to the tobacco problem. Information on the tobacco problem and the effects of nicotine on the individual and society should be integrated into the educational program of each local church. We urge the use of scientific information, forums, study groups, audio-visual aids, and the observance of Commitment Day in our churches. We challenge our churches to assist individuals to meet the social pressure to use tobacco by developing within them the resources of the redeemed life, by personal example and supportive fellowship, and by commendation for constructive living.

The church must present the fuller Christian life to those who use tobacco. Our ministry must be one of redemptive love. Christians should seek through love to assist the individual in finding answers to the problems he faces. "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore such an one in the spirit of gentleness" (Galatians 6:1).

We also urge the churches to help people to recognize the problems that lead them to seek artificial stimulation and to point them to creative solutions.

Conclusion

The use of tobacco and its effects on man and society constitute a problem for the church. The church is called to the Christlike way of life—to be an example to the world of Jesus, of love, of life abundant. Christ demands the best of individual Christians. We call the Brethren to a complete commitment to Christ. We urge the churches to promot abstinence from the production, sale, and use of tobacco and to implement the program through Christian education and redemption in th local church.

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Statement adopted.

Symbolism in Worship

Query, 1951

The elders' body of the District of North Dakota and Eastern Montana petitions Annual Conference through the 1950 district conferenc that: Since there is considerable confusion as to forms of worshi chancel arrangements, and other liturgical trends, the Annual Conference appoint a committee of five, representative of the related interest of the church, to:

1. Make a study of symbolism in its relationship to worship in th light of the historic position of the Church of the Brethren.
2. Define the function of the minister in worship in the light of th New Testament doctrine of the priesthood of believers.
3. In the light of this study, recommend chancel arrangements an church architecture which may serve to guide local building committee and our church building counselors.
4. Let the conclusions of this study serve to guide the seminary i its training of our ministers and church leaders, and in the chanc arrangements of the new Bethany chapel.
5. Make a report of this study to the Annual Conference next yea

Mark Emswiler, Secretary

Answer of district conference: Approved and passed to Annu Conference.

Mark Emswiler, Clerk

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Granted the request for th study by a committee of three; disregarding the latter part of item Committee: H. F. Richards (convener), Burton Metzler, Nevin H. Zuc Forrest U. Groff (consultant).

Report of the Committee, 1952

We, your committee appointed by the San Jose Conference to mak a study of symbolism in worship, as requested by a query, wish to mak the following report to the 1952 Conference convened in Richmon Virginia:

First: Symbolism in its relation to worship in the light of th historic position of the Church of the Brethren:

Historically, we as a church have accepted the idea of symbolis as we found it set forth in the New Testament. We, therefore, hav given more attention to symbolism in act, such as baptism, than in for of worship and arrangement of building. As a consequence we have made many changes across the years in the form and setting of public worship. Within the memory of those who are older a large number of our church houses were equipped with a long table back of which was placed the "preachers' bench," all on the main floor level. Later this place gave way to a raised platform and a center pulpit. This arrangement was found more satisfactory and was widely adopted in the churches.

Earlier the church did not have, or approve, musical instruments in the worship service of the church, nor were there choirs or special music. Because of a desire to enrich the worship service these have come to be widely used and their use has given rise to necessary changes in architectural arrangement. Formerly worship services grew up more or less spontaneously on the spot with even the ministers themselves unaware as to who among them would bring the sermon. Now many of our churches use church bulletins with a prearranged program of worship which is followed in the service. Gradually the very simple and unadorned meetinghouse gave way to the preacher-centered and concert-choir arrangement of the past generation, often with art windows, pictures, and various symbols which represent some phase of our Christian faith. Today many of our churches are attempting to build even more churchly houses of worship.

It is the finding of your committee in this regard that the church can scarcely be said to have had a "historic position" on the matter of form and arrangements in worship except that of making changes from time to time, often amid divergent opinions, when it was felt that such changes would better serve the church in the hours of worship, and that simplicity and spirituality would be fostered.

Second: The function of the minister in worship in the light of the New Testament doctrine of the priesthood of believers:

The New Testament declares the truth of the priesthood of believers (1 Peter 2:9), a doctrine which is strongly emphasized in Protestantism, and is practiced by our own brotherhood. Each believer has direct access to God in worship, in the confession of his sins, and in receiving forgiveness. This truth may rightly be impressed upon us by a wise use of symbolism. However, the New Testament does recognize that "some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11). Each worshiper must make his own spiritual pilgrimage to the meeting place with God, it is true, but ministers, or others who lead in worship, may lead the way and give assistance. One who officiates in a worship service functions in both a priestly and a prophetic capacity, leading the people Godward, and in a sense speaking for them to him, and in turn, giving his message to the people. Much of the effectiveness of a worship service will depend upon the measure of the faith of the leader and upon th depth of his devotion.

It is our belief that we should approach a worship experience wit expectation and should be taught how to worship in spirit and in truth For such true worship no type of architectural arrangement and n mere ceremony or ritual can be substituted. We draw near to mee God, who comes with his gifts and his grace that we may accept the with gratitude and may in turn bring to him our gifts and our lives Apart from this, worship in any setting is hollow and meaningless

Third: Chancel arrangements and church architecture.

In recent years strong emphasis has been placed on worship, which emphasis we believe to be good provided it be kept well seasoned with the prophetic spirit and outlook. Many of our churches have become increasingly aware of a need for creating an atmosphere which is conducive to a richer and more meaningful worship experience. Your committee shares the belief that the physical properties or architectural design of our churches can have a great deal of favorable or adverse effect on the worshipers and the worship service. Since the concern of the query and the focal point of interest is that of chancel arrangements, the committee wishes to present the following observations:

1. The chancel should be so designed as to present proper proportion, balance, and color harmony.

2. It should minimize the mechanics of the service which would otherwise be obvious and might detract the worshiper.

3. It should express basic doctrines, and various elements of worship through appropriate use of symbols and appointments.

4. Some favor the central pulpit for the following reasons:

a. It has for many years been the prevailing pattern.

b. It places the major emphasis on the spoken word and the preacher.

c. It tends to allow for greater informality in worship.

d. It makes for greater economy in that it eliminates need for lectern and altar.

e. Some forms of architecture and pew arrangement lend themselves only to a center pulpit.

5. Others favor the open chancel for the following reasons:

a. With the altar in the center it tends to place the major emphasis on the worship of God instead of on the preacher or the spoken word.

b. By removing the physical barrier of pulpit and minister, it allows for an unobstructed center of worship, suggesting a direct approach to God open to all.

c. It provides for greater variety of worship experiences without moving chancel furniture.

d. It provides more convenient arrangement for weddings, funerals, dedications, baptisms, etc.

e. It enhances the proportions of the sanctuary by giving it greater length.

f. It allows for better use of symbolism in architectural design.

6. The committee believes that Annual Conference should not attempt to set up rules governing the exact arrangement and design of chancels for the Church of the Brethren, but should rather encourage congregations faced with the problem to consider it prayerfully in the light of the local situation and to consult someone who has knowledge of church architecture, so that whatever plans are projected they may have a sound doctrinal and practical basis. While one type of chancel may serve its purpose better than another, there will always be need for the worshipers to "practice the presence of God."

H. F. Richards
Burton Metzler
Nevin Zuck
Forrest Groff (consultant)

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Women in the Ministry

Query, 1949

The Church of the Brethren, McClave, Colorado, petitions Annual Conference through district conference of Colorado to allow women equal rights with men in the ministry.

Paul Cline, Clerk

Answer of district conference: Query passed to Annual Conference.

Roscoe P. Baker, Writing Clerk

Answer of 1949 Annual Conference: Referred to the General Brotherhood Board for study and report next year.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1950

The General Brotherhood Board respectfully requests Annual Conference of 1950 to appoint a committee to make a study of the whole problem of the role of women in the life of the church, and bring a report, with recommendations, to the Annual Conference of 1951.

Answer of 1950 Annual Conference: Granted the request for a study to be made on the role of women in the life of the church. Committee: T. F. Henry (convener), Mrs. Rufus D. Bowman, E. R. Fisher, DeWitt L. Miller, Ruth Shriver.

Report of the Committee, 1951

Your committee has engaged in extensive study of the subjects assigned. We have studied the Scriptures at length. We have considered the findings of psychology and anthropology regarding characteristics of male and female. A questionnaire was sent to each of our congregations, and to one hundred representative lay members. Another questionnaire was sent to each of our women ministers. Careful consideration was given the Amsterdam and American reports on the status of women in the church. We exchanged findings by mail, worked through subcommittees, and held two meetings of the full committee.

We have given attention to two broad subjects: The Rôle of Women in the Church; The Work of Women in the Ministry.

I. The Role of Women in the Church

Regarding the rôle of women in the church, on the basis of a questionnaire answered by four hundred twenty-three congregations we find some women serving on almost every board and committee of the local church. One third of the congregations reporting have at least one woman member on the board of administration, trustee board, finance board, and ministerial board. Two thirds report at least one woman member on each board of Christian education, music committee, and Brethren service committee. Eighty-two percent reported a woman on the missionary committee. Participation as church-school teachers is especially interesting. The following percentages of church-school teachers are women: adult division, 42%; youth division, 64%; children's division, 92%.

Several facts stand out: 1. Women do hold a significant place in the life and program of the Church of the Brethren. When compared with a number of denominations the extent of the participation seems to be larger for the Church of the Brethren. 2. The Church of the Brethren has made extensive progress over a period of years in granting a larger place to women in her organized church life. 3. Nevertheless, it is still true that except for Sunday-school teachers, women do not have representation equal to their numerical strength on the boards and committees of the church. Thus while 34% of our churches have at least one woman board member, 66% of the churches having boards of administration have no women board members. The same proportion holds true for boards of trustees, finance boards, and ministerial boards. Further, some congregations reporting in our questionnaire have only one woman member on five-member boards, which further reduces the proportion of women members. When we look at our district and national organizations we find women far short of proportionate representation in official capacity.

We recommend increased recognition of the contribution of women in the life and work of the church, and we recommend a more extensive use of their wisdom and ability. We would urge election on the basis of ability and capacity for all who are called to positions of service. Especially do we urge that women be more widely represented on boards and committees on the local, district, and brotherhood level.

II. The Work of Women in the Ministry

Regarding women in the ministry, we call attention to the fact that the original query arose in a situation of need in a local congregation, and we have felt inclined to make an effort to meet that need. Our study disclosed a number of places where women ministers could make a larger contribution than they are able to do at present.

We confess our inability to harmonize all the specific Scriptures on this subject, but have felt led to build on what we believe is the spirit and mind of Christ. Certain verses from Paul can be quoted against women in the ministry, and certain others in support of women in the ministry, so that it becomes difficult to arrive at a conclusion on the basis of Paul. But in Christ we have an attitude of respect for personality, of treatment of women on a plane of equality.

We recommend that a woman who is the pastor of a church be granted the privileges of the ordained minister to function in the congregation of which she is pastor. Permission to exercise these privileges shall be granted by the local congregation with the approval of the district ministerial board or district board of administration.

T. F. Henry, Convener
Mrs. Rufus D. Bowman
E. R. Fisher
DeWitt L. Miller
Ruth Shriver

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Recommitted for further study and report next year.

Report of the Committee, 1952

Your committee engaged in further study of the request of the query which came before Conference in 1949 and of the broader assignment of the Conference of 1950.

I. The Role of Women

We believe that the division of labor which assigns to women a special function in home and family life is Scriptural, and that normally this offers the greatest opportunity open to women for the service of mankind and the Kingdom of God (Genesis 2:18, 21, 24; Proverbs 31:10-31; 2 Timothy 1:3-5). It is also true that experience proves that women can make outstanding contributions in other areas. We believe this also is Scriptural and in harmony with the spirit and teaching of the Bible (Judges 4:4 ff.; 2 Kings 22:14; the story of Esther; Proverbs 31:10-31; Luke 2:36-38; Acts 9:36; 16:14, 15; 21:9; Romans 16:1-6; 1 Corinthians 11:5; Galatians 3:26-28).

II. The Role of Women in the Church

Regarding the role of women in the church, on the basis of a questionnaire answered by four hundred twenty-three congregations we find some women serving on almost every board and committee of the local church. One third of the congregations reporting have at least one woman on the board of administration, trustee board, finance board, and ministerial board. Two thirds report at least one woman member on each board of Christian education, music committee, and Brethren service committee. Eighty-two per cent reported a woman on the missionary committee. The following percentages of church-school teachers are women: adult division, 42%; youth division, 64%; children's division, 92%.

Several facts stand out: 1. Women do hold a significant place in the life and program of the Church of the Brethren. When compared to a number of denominations the extent of the participation seems to be larger for the Church of the Brethren. 2. The Church of the Brethren has made extensive progress over a period of years in granting a larger place to women in her organized church life. Of the missionaries now serving or on furlough, 68% are women, and of those in the Brethren service program 56% are women. 3. Nevertheless, it is still true that except for Sunday-school teachers, women do not have representation equal to their numerical strength on the boards and committees of the church. Thus while 34% of our churches have at least one woman board member, 66% of the churches having boards of administration have no women board members. The same proportion holds true for boards of trustees, finance boards, and ministerial boards. Further, some congregations reporting in our questionnaire have only one woman member on five-member boards, which further reduces the proportion of women members. When we look at our district and national organizations we find women far short of proportionate representation in official capacity.

We recommend increased recognition of the contribution of women in the life and work of the church, and we recommend a more extensive use of their wisdom and ability. We would urge election on the basis of ability and capacity for all who are called to positions of service. Especially do we urge that women be more widely represented on boards and committees on the local, district, and brotherhood level.

III. THE WORK OF WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY

1. We recognize from Scripture and experience that woman's special role in society due to the privileges and responsibilities of motherhood places certain practical limitations on her work in the ministry. Moreover, many women are disqualified for the same reasons some men are.

2. We recognize on the other hand that these are not ultimate discriminations against her as a person, "for there can be neither male nor female in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

3. We recommend, therefore, that qualified women be granted equal opportunity with men in the ministry.

Committee: T. F. Henry, Mrs. R. D. Bowman, E. R. Fisher, DeWitt L. Miller, Ruth Shriver.

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Adopted the 1952 report with the substitution for the final item "3," of the 1951 recommendation on "The Work of Women in the Ministry," viz.—"We recommend that a woman who is the pastor of a church be granted the privileges of the ordained minister to function in the congregation of which she is pastor. Permission to exercise these privileges shall be granted by the local congregation with the approval of the district ministerial board or district board of administration."

1953, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Brotherhood Fund Goal, 1953-54

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference the adoption of a Brotherhood Fund goal of $1,275,000 for the year 1953-54.

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Goal adopted as recommended.

Central Agency for Vocational Placement

Query, 1952

We, the elders of Middle Iowa, request the district meeting held at Cedar Rapids, August 31—September 2, to ask Annual Conference of 1952 to appoint a committee to make a study of the possibility of a central placement person or agency whereby our people could give and receive information which would facilitate vocational placement of Brethren in our church communities. Report of the study would be made to the following Conference.

Answer of district conference: Passed by district meeting to Annual Conference.

Earl F. Deardorff, Clerk

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Referred to the General Brotherhood Board for study and report next year.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1953

The General Brotherhood Board has studied the question of a central agency for vocational placement and reports that a limited placement service has been provided by the Brethren Service Commission through notices in the *Gospel Messenger.* Some local congregations have organized successful vocational placement committees. There is a widespread interest across the brotherhood for guidance and assistance in securing homes and jobs in new locations. In the light of these findings, we feel that there is a need for an expansion and co-ordination of the present placement activities. We, therefore, recommend the establishment of a Brethren Placement Service:

1. To facilitate the vocational placement in the communities of local churches and in brotherhood programs;
2. To develop or assist in developing interpretative and educational materials to describe the services and its objectives;
3. To assist interested congregations in the establishment of local vocational placement services;
4. To co-operate with the placement program of other churches and church-related agencies;
5. To establish and maintain a registry of church members inter-

ested and available (sometime) for vocational placement, locally, nationally, and/or internationally;

6. To study the experience of similar programs of other churches and church-related agencies.

We further recommend that upon the adoption of this plan, the General Brotherhood Board be asked to implement its provisions.

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Church of the Brethren Radio Hour

Query, 1952

The ministry and mission board of the District of Michigan petitions Annual Conference through the Michigan district conference to appoint a committee to study the possibility of initiating a Church of the Brethren radio hour over a national hookup.

Glenn J. Fruth, Secretary

Answer of district conference: Passed to Annual Conference.

H. Arthur Whisler, Writing Clerk

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Referred to the General Brotherhood Board.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1953

The General Brotherhood Board, after a careful study of the question, believes a national radio hookup for the Church of the Brethren is inadvisable because of:

a. The cost of radio time, which ranges from $25,000 to $125,000 per year, depending on the number of stations carrying the program.

b. The difficulty of securing a suitable time in the already-crowded schedules of the major networks, a problem greatly complicated by the three to four hours' difference in time involved.

c. The fact that we do not have churches in large areas of the country and the reluctance of stations to carry programs without relevance to their constituency.

Broadcasting companies and several of the major denominations point out that the competitive scramble which results when denominations try to purchase time tends to jeopardize the free time which the major networks contribute as a public service to co-operative Protestantism. These denominations feel that better results can be obtained by participating in such co-operative radio programs as the National Council of Churches' *National Radio Pulpit* and *The Art of Living* over NBC, *National Vespers* over ABC, and *Faith in Our Times* over the Mutual system. In addition, this co-operative church agency arranges for numerous special-event and seasonal broadcasts on behalf of all Protestantism.

If the church wants a radio program, it can better be provided by making recordings on discs or tape for distribution to stations in areas where we have Brethren. The time could be arranged and paid for by local congregations or organizations. However, the cost of planning, producing, and distributing such a program on a continuous, national basis would be considerable. It would be substantially reduced if we could secure the free services of competent technicians, musicians, and speakers and the free use of studios and equipment. Perhaps $10,000 per year would be the minimum cost for even the overhead direction and secretarial services of such a program, to say nothing of production costs or the cost of radio program time.

For the present we would encourage the types of program experimentation being contemplated by the Southeastern Region and carried on by some co-operating churches in Eastern Pennsylvania in *The Brethren Hour,* and the further use of local radio station facilities by our churches or groups of churches as opportunity can be found. In some areas, it will be found advantageous to approach local stations co-operatively with other Protestant denominations represented in the community.

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Concern for Ministerial Recruitment

Greatly disturbed by the present critical shortage of ministers, which is making it impossible for us to meet our opportunities to establish new churches as well as to give adequate pastoral care to the existing ones, Standing Committee recommends to the 1953 Colorado Springs Conference:

1. That the delegates of this Conference express their deep concern on this matter and convey that concern to their local churches; and
2. That the General Brotherhood Board, through the appropriate channels, be asked—
    a. To devise a strategy for meeting this great need;
    b. To lift up the need before the brotherhood in a special way during the coming year; and
    c. To implement further the meeting of this concern in any other way they would consider expedient.

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Recommendations adopted.

Financing of Bethany Biblical Seminary

The General Brotherhood Board recommends that Annual Conference authorize the raising of funds for capital improvements and for permanent endowments outside the brotherhood budget by special promotion for which the seminary shall be responsible. This movement shall be subject to the approval of the General Brotherhood Board as regards general plans and objectives. It shall be carried on by regions and shall be conducted in the closest co-operation with our colleges and the department of promotion of the General Brotherhood Board.

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Identification Symbol for Brethren

We, the Pleasant Hill congregation, met in regular council July 11, 1952, and agreed to ask this district meeting [Second West Virginia] to pass the following on to General Conference in 1953:

(1) Ask General Conference to place the following in the hands of a special committee to study for one year.

(2) Ask General Conference to make legal and available (not compulsory) a lapel badge or button of identification for its members. Colored according to rating.

(3) Also place one with its identification in every hospital or charitable institution in the United States.

Orpha E. Martin, Clerk

Action of district meeting: Passed to Annual Conference.

Ada Scrogum, Secretary

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: We are grateful for the spirit reflected in this query and appreciate the satisfaction of easy identification of Brethren during the time of travel. The Conference, however, does not feel that the need is sufficiently great at this time to justify the expense involved in making the study requested. But, as a step in the direction of the action requested by the query, we suggest that the committee on arrangements, hereafter, make available stickers for travel to Annual Conference.

International Conference on Peace and World Order

The General Brotherhood Board, meeting in Elgin, Illinois, in March 1953, was deeply disturbed with continued threats to world peace and felt the need to encourage stronger efforts toward building peace. It, therefore, recommends to Annual Conference the adoption of the following statement:

"The Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren, assembled at Colorado Springs, Colorado, June 16 to 21, 1953, feels led by the Holy Spirit to call upon the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, of which it is a numerically small but grateful member, to consider the advisability of planning for an International Conference of the Churches on a Christian Basis and Strategy for Peace and World Order.

Answer of the 1953 Annual Conference: Recommendation adopted.

Investment of Endowment Funds

Query, 1952

The placement committee of the Panther Creek Church of the Brethren asks the Panther Creek church to request the District of Middle Iowa convening at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, August 31—September 2 to petition the 1952 Annual Conference to appoint a committee to study the possibility of investing more of the endowment funds from the General Brotherhood Board and our church colleges in the local church communities of the brotherhood; the report of this study to be made to the following Annual Conference. Passed.

Dale Emmert, Clerk

Answer of district conference: Passed to Annual Conference.

Earl F. Deardorff, Clerk

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Referred to the General Brotherhood Board for study and report next year.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1953

The General Brotherhood Board understands that this query refers to church and farm loans and presents the following report:

1. The Annual Conference does not assume any responsibility or authority regarding investment of endowment funds of our church colleges, but we refer this concern to the boards of trustees of the individual colleges.

2. In the investment of its endowment and annuity funds, the General Brotherhood Board during the past five years has more than doubled the amount invested in local churches and communities, as can be seen from the following figures:

	September 30, 1952		September 28, 1947	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
Church loans	$759,869	25.0	$ 76,833	2.4
Farm and home loans	693,721	22.6	578,572	17.9
Sub-totals .	$1,453,590	47.6	$ 655,405	20.3
Bonds	$963,539	31.1	$2,002,037	61.7
Common stocks ...	540,059	17.5	407,892	12.6

Preferred stocks ...	116,086		3.8		176,392		5.4	
Sub-totals .		1,619,684		52.4		2,586,321		79.7
Totals .		$3,073,274		100.0		$3,241,726		100.0

3. Our fixed obligations under annuity agreements total $1,178,600. Our endowments total $1,127,300. Our best judgment is that we must have a diversification of investments. On this theory, we feel at the present that this proportion in local church and farm loans is proper. Furthermore, a sizable portion of the shares of stock held are gifts, some of which must be retained to comply with the wishes of the donors.

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Report adopted and confidence expressed in the officers and agencies carrying on this work.

Our General Church Government

Query, 1952

In view of the seeming tendency for the delegates from the churches to Annual Conference to participate increasingly less in the discussions at the business sessions and for Standing Committee increasingly to consider most of the items of Conference business and to make recommendations to the delegates; and, further, the need of clarifying the relationship between the executive and the legislative branches of our general church government:

The district meeting of Oregon, assembled at Klamath Falls, petitions Annual Conference of 1952 to appoint a committee of five to study our general church government and report to the next Annual Conference.

The study of the committee to include the following:

1. Organizing the Annual Conference program so as to include more time for business sessions.

2. Clarifying the functions of the Standing Committee regarding the consideration of Annual Conference business.

3. Ways of stimulating the delegates to think through the business of Annual Conference and to participate in the discussions.

4. The responsibility of Annual Conference delegates to their local churches and districts.

5. The point of view on the part of some that the business of Annual Conference should be referred to the local churches for consideration.

6. The relationships between the General Brotherhood Board (the executive branch) and the Annual Conference (the legislative branch) in general church government.

7. Any other matters of Conference procedure and program.

Passed by vote of delegate body of the district meeting.

Mrs. Alma Lett, Clerk, Pro Tem

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Referred to the committee on revision of the brotherhood organization for study and report. Committee: Calvert N. Ellis (chairman), William M. Beahm (secretary), Galen B. Ogden.

Report of the Committee, 1953

Your committee met in Chicago on March 13, 1953, and submits the following report on the items raised in the above query.

1. More Time for Business Sessions

A comparison of the 1942 program with the 1952 program shows there were four sessions for business in the former and seven in the latter. The number of hours was nearly equal. Moreover, the 1952 program had the business sessions more interspersed with the general programs so that the business sessions were centered at the time of maximum attendance.

The program committee has the Conference officers on it and stands ready to defer to the priority of business sessions. In the 1947 Orlando *Conference Booklet* a program is listed on page eleven to be waived for a business session if necessary.

In actual practice, the delegate body has the prerogative to shift or lengthen the business sessions and on occasion this prerogative has been exercised. Pressure of time does arise but it is usually due to the judgment of the business session that haste is desirable.

2. Function of Standing Committee in Considering Business

a. Business arises from local congregations and district meetings; also from boards and committees constituted by Annual Conference. Such business is published in the *Gospel Messenger* before Conference and in the *Conference Booklet* which is available to all in attendance.

b. The function of Standing Committee is to review all business to be considered by Conference. This has been the historic practice as outlined in the Annual Conference minutes, published each year in the *Conference Booklet,* and formally stated in the pamphlet, *Brotherhood Organization.*

c. The Standing Committee is responsible for suggesting answers to all queries. These are listed in the *Conference Booklet* as "New Business." These answers include: granting the request; referral to a board or committee for action, or for study and report; and respectfully returning the query.

d. In regard to "Unfinished Business" items such as reports by committees and boards to whom a previous Conference has referred business or made assignments, the rule, as adopted by the 1951 San

Jose Conference, is: "The Standing Committee may review the reports of Conference committees but has no authority to change or revise such reports" [see the minutes of the 1951 Conference, under "Amendments to the Conference Rules"]. These items are regarded as already being in the hands of the Conference session, which in turn has delegated them to a special board or committee for study and recommendation.

3 and 4. Ways of Stimulating Delegates

a. They are encouraged to acquaint themselves with the Conference business by reviewing the previous year's Annual Conference minutes, and by studying the business items as published in the *Gospel Messenger* and in the *Conference Booklet.*

b. The local congregations are encouraged to review, in council or in special meetings, the business to come before Conference. This will enable the chosen delegates to represent them properly.

c. The local congregations should choose as delegates those best able to participate in the functions of a large deliberative assembly.

d. The Conference officers and the Committee on Arrangements are commended for every effort to promote free but balanced and pointed discussion of Conference business.

e. The delegates are urged to make early and interpretative reports to the districts and the congregations whom they represent.

5. The Referral of Annual Conference Business to the Local Congregations for Consideration

Since the local congregations are the source of much of the Conference business through their queries, and

Since the local congregations have opportunity to be informed about the Conference business as it appears in the previous year's Annual Conference minutes and in the *Gospel Messenger* before Conference convenes, it is considered that the concern of item 5 is already cared for.

Since our church functions through duly elected representatives gathered in deliberative assembly, it is regarded that this proposal deviates from our historic policy.

6 and 7. The Annual Conference and the General Brotherhood Board

The Annual Conference is regarded as the highest human authority of the church. It determines the policy and direction of the church program at the general brotherhood level. It gives guidance and direction also to regions, districts, and local congregations.

The Annual Conference created the General Brotherhood Board, elects its members, hears its reports, and gives it guidance and assignments.

Calvert N. Ellis, Chairman
William M. Beahm, Secretary
Galen B. Ogden

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Proposed Adoption of the Revised Standard Version

The following query was passed by the Northwest District of Kansas in their district meeting held at Quinter on October 18, 1952:

"The District of Northwest Kansas petitions the Annual Meeting assembled at Colorado Springs to adopt the Revised Standard Version of the Bible as the authorized version for our church."

Samuel Bowman, Temporary Writing Clerk

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: The Church of the Brethren has used the Scriptures in various languages and versions in its congregations around the world and we reaffirm our policy of not adopting any specific version. Devotional reading and careful study of the Bible have been strong emphases of the Brethren and we again call our people to diligent study of the Word.

Proposed Revision of the Pension Plan

Query, 1952

Whereas, our Brethren heritage has emphasized the New Testament principle of brotherhood and ministering to her people according to their needs;

Whereas, our Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan, as now constituted, provides a retirement pension in proportion to salary received irrespective of need;

Whereas, we believe the present plan unjustly penalizes ministers and missionaries who serve sacrificially on the lower salary levels;

And whereas, we believe a correction can be effected without changing the financial stability of the pension plan.

Therefore we, the Fairfax congregation, petition Annual Conference through district meeting of the Eastern District of Virginia to authorize revision of the pension plan so that the amount paid by the local churches, less deductions for contingent fund and expense reserve, will not accrue to the credit of the individual ministers, as the plan now provides, but be pooled and appropriated on the basis of years served rather than salary drawn.

J. T. Myers, Clerk

Action of district conference: Passed on to Annual Conference.

Paul E. Swigart, Clerk

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Referred to a committee of five to be studied with emphasis on the equalization phase of the query having regard to both length of service and need. Committee: Elmer M. Hersch (convener), Hylton Harman, Henry Gibbel, W. Newton Long, Robert L. Sherfy.

Report of the Committee, 1953

1. The spirit of this query is in keeping with the Christian principle of brotherhood and sharing.

2. Three different funds are referred to in our report:

a. The Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan represents money contributed by members and their employing congregations. Out of this fund retirement benefits are paid; the amount of benefits depends on the amount of money standing to the member's credit at the time of his retirement.

b. The Supplemental Benefit Fund of the pension plan was raised by offerings and gifts. Until the pension plan has been in operation for some years the amount payable to those who retire is pitifully small. The supplemental fund increases the retirement payments to those in the pension plan now retiring who have been in only long enough to draw a very small amount. As the normal retirements become more adequate, this fund will eventually disappear. Now it is serving a real need.

c. The Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund is not part of the pension plan; it is a welfare fund. $33,250 has been designated by Conference this year out of the Brotherhood Fund. It is paid out quarterly to needy missionaries and ministers and their wives, regardless of their membership in the pension plan.

3. With reference to changing the pension plan:

a. The money now in the pension plan is not brotherhood money; it belongs to those ministers for whose benefit it has been deposited. The plan itself provides: "No amendment shall abridge or annul the rights of members in respect to their combined accumulation as of the date of the adoption of such amendment."

b. If any change is made in the present plan the obligation to the members up to the time of the change must be fulfilled.

c. If the plan is changed as proposed in the query, those now in the plan that would continue in the new plan would have their retirement figured on two bases:

(1) The accumulation to their credit at the time of the change.
(2) The amount due after the new plan goes into effect, based on—
    (a) Their personal contribution;
    (b) The number of years of service under that plan;
    (c) How much is needed.

4. Payments on the basis of length of service:

a. We assume that "length of service" means "length of service while a member of the pension plan." We think a plan could be made to work on such basis.

b. We have not incurred the expense of determining accurately the difference in dollars that would be paid in retirement benefits to members on the basis of length of service rather than on the present basis. It is our judgment that the retirement benefits would change only slightly from the present plan.

5. Payments on the basis of need:

a. If based on need, our pension plan would in effect become a "welfare fund." We already have such a fund—the Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund described under 2c. We question the wisdom of setting up a duplicate agency.

b. If payment of retirement benefits were made according to "needs" no member would have any way of knowing what retirement benefits to anticipate, as such payments would depend upon what funds were left after payments to the most pressing cases.

c. The problem of defining what "need" is, judging it fairly all across the brotherhood, and administering the funds proportionately without excessive costs, is a large one.

6. General observations:

a. We sent questionnaires to pastors and finance representatives in local churches in five districts, one in each region of our brotherhood. We received much help from them. We can find no strong sentiment for change.

b. To change the plan now would, in our judgment, entail considerable more overhead expense.

c. To attempt to administer one plan on the basis of both length of service and need appears to be very difficult.

d. We recognize the possibilities of some unfairness in the retirement benefits of our present system if real service to the church is recognized as the proper basis for benefits; but we feel that our missionaries and ministers do not have financial justice as a chief motive in their service to the church.

e. There is a feeling among many that Social Security may soon be available to ministers.

7. We recommend:

a. That the Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund be substantially strengthened to care more adequately for cases of need.

b. That no change be made now in the pension plan.

Robert L. Sherfy
Henry Gibbel
Hylton Harman
W. Newton Long
(E. M. Hersch asked to be relieved
from serving on the committee)

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Reading Course for Licensed Ministers

Query, 1951

The Waynesboro, Virginia, church requests Annual Conference through district conference of the Second District of Virginia, assembled at Bridgewater, Virginia, March 30, 1951, to set up as a minimum educational qualification for licensing to the ministry of the Church of the Brethren, the completion of a reading course sufficient to give a foundation for ministerial work (see 2 Timothy 2:15). The areas to be covered in the course of reading may be:

1. Familiarity with the Bible (concordance and dictionary)
2. *The Pastor's Manual*
3. History of the church
4. Pastoral work
5. Preaching, worship, religious education
6. Annual Conference minutes and the *Gospel Messenger.*

The execution of these requirements to be in the hands of the district board dealing with the ministry: specific books for the plan to be selected by the General Brotherhood Board Commission on Ministry and Home Missions.

Russell Thacker, Clerk

Answer of district conference: We pass this query to Annual Conference with the request that there be included in the plan minimum reading requirements for those being ordained into the ministry.

M. R. Wolfe, Secretary

Answer of 1951 Annual Conference: Referred to the General Brotherhood Board.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1952

The General Brotherhood Board reports progress and asks for more time to continue the study.

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Request for more time granted.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1953

The General Brotherhood Board asked the Ministry and Home Mission Commission to prepare a recommended reading list for the use and guidance of our licensed ministers before ordination. The list is available for district boards to present to all licensed ministers, or licentiates themselves may order it from the General Brotherhood Board. We commend its distribution and use for all those who have been licensed by the church that they may grow in their ministry.

If district ministerial boards or boards of administration so desire they may select a few books from this list for reading by men before being licensed to the ministry.

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Regular Locations for Annual Conference

In view of the great difficulty in finding an adequate location for our Annual Conference, we, the East Nimishillen congregation, in regular council assembled, request the district conference of Northeastern Ohio to petition the 1953 Annual Conference to appoint a committe to study the possibility and advisability of locating our Annual Conference permanently at Ocean Grove, New Jersey, and Colorado Springs Colorado, alternating each year until such time as more suitable locations are found in other regions.

Albert J. Brumbaugh, Clerk

Answer of district conference: Passed to Annual Conference.

E. G. Diehm, Clerk

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: We consider the present pla of regional rotation of the Annual Conference important for the purpose of wide-spread attendance. We grant, however, to any region whic finds difficulty in locating the Conference within its own area the righ to hold the Conference outside its regional boundaries. In case suc action is considered necessary it should be done by the Locating Committee of Annual Conference and with the approval of the region in whose area the Conference is to be held.

Revision of the Pamphlet, Brotherhood Organization

The 1951 San Jose Annual Conference authorized this committee to revise and reprint the pamphlet entitled *Brotherhood Organization* at a time deemed appropriate; also to bring a further report if desired.

The committee wishes to report that the General Brotherhood Board is publishing a new handbook for ministers to be called *Manual of Worship and Polity: Church of the Brethren.* This handbook includes the material your committee was asked to publish and it is still planned to supplement the publication of the handbook by a revised printing of the pamphlet, *Brotherhood Organization.* This will be smaller than the handbook and thus available for wider distribution. Because of the fact that the handbook is already on the press, this committee does not propose any further revisions of the pamphlet at this time. With the republication of this pamphlet in its revised form the committee will regard its assignment as having been fulfilled.

Committee: Calvert N. Ellis, Chairman
William M. Beahm, Secretary
Galen B. Ogden

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Statement of the General Brotherhood Board on Our Sunday-school Publications and the Use of the Revised Standard Version

The Revised Standard Version of the Scriptures, begun nearly twenty-five years ago, was completed during this Conference year. This monumental work has been warmly and widely accepted by millions of Christians throughout the country. The New Testament revision was finished in 1946 and has been used extensively by our own people with almost universal approval.

Our people have from time to time been requesting our editors to use the new version in our Sunday-school publications. In response to these requests, the General Brotherhood Board approved an experimental use of the version beginning with the second quarter of 1953. We have now used the new version for nearly one quarter, during which time we have sought expressions of opinion from our church leaders.

We have found that the vast majority of our people heartily approve the use of the new version. There is, however, opposition to its use on the part of a small minority of our people who are very honest and sincere in their objection. Some have requested the use of both versions printed in parallel columns as was once the practice of the church [King James and American Standard versions].

The General Brotherhood Board desires to serve our churches in their ministry of Christian education in the manner most acceptable and helpful to them. We, therefore, seek the approval of the Conference of 1953 for the printing of both the King James and the Revised Standard version in our publications beginning at the earliest possible date, which will be October 1, 1953.

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Request granted.

Statement on Discrimination

It is the belief of the General Brotherhood Board that discriminations due to color, nationality, or creed are out of keeping both with the teachings of the New Testament and with the stated position of the Church of the Brethren. We therefore recommend:

A. That the Annual Conference Locating Committee attempt to secure assurances in the host city that discriminations due to color, nationality, or creed which might embarrass the international character of our Conference, will be removed or set aside.

B. That all Brethren churches move ahead courageously by ways most successful in their cultural surroundings to remove all discrimination within their own fellowship.

C. That Brethren work in the ways most adapted to their local situation for the removal of discriminatory practices within the cities and communities where Brethren churches are located.

D. That in all projects, where General Brotherhood funds are appropriated, special efforts be made to teach against and to remove all forms of discrimination as rapidly as possible.

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Statement adopted as recommended.

Travel Bureau for Brethren

Query, 1952

The Pipe Creek congregation asks Annual Conference throug district conference of Eastern Maryland to organize a travel burea to assist our folk in buying all kinds of travel tickets at a reduce cost and in securing reservations and other accommodations; this servic to be self-supporting and available to any member of Brethren familie at all times. It is suggested that, following the pattern of the Mennonit Travel Bureau, this service be closely allied to Brethren Service.

Marian Young, Clerk

Answer of district conference: Passed to Annual Conference.

Berkley O. Bowman, Writing Clerk

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Referred to the General Brotherhood Board for study and report next year.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1953

The General Brotherhood Board has studied the advisability o organizing "a travel bureau to assist our folk in buying all kinds o travel tickets at a reduced cost and in securing reservations and othe accommodations; this service to be self-supporting and available t any member of Brethren families at all times." We are very appreciativ of the concern of the query that greater travel assistance and co-ordination be given to members of the church. It is true that the Mennonit Travel Bureau has rendered significant and profitable service to members and friends of the Mennonite fellowship.

Investigation reveals, however, that travel tickets at reduced cost to the purchaser cannot be secured. Any financial advantage in purchasing travel tickets comes to the travel agency involved in the form o commissions on tickets sold and not to the individual purchaser in the form of reduced costs. Furthermore, it is found to be illegal fo a travel bureau to distribute its commissions to purchasers thereby t reduce indirectly the costs of tickets. The two respects in which a Brethren Travel Bureau might be conceived as providing "travel tickets at a reduced cost" are, first, the increased services provided at usual travel agency rates and, second, a financially profitable operation of the bureau itself, which bureau might allocate its profits to the support of the brotherhood program.

In view of these considerations the General Brotherhood Board does not believe it advisable at this time to establish a Brethren Travel Bureau. In lieu of establishing a travel bureau, we make the following suggestions:

1. Brethren who are planning major travels may advise our brotherhood office of their contemplated plans and receive what counsel and services are available through this office;

2. The General Brotherhood Board is pleased to encourage Brethren who travel to visit areas and projects of the brotherhood program at home and abroad and is glad to have brotherhood staff personnel share in the planning for such visits;

3. For Brethren who contemplate travel we recommend aspects of our present program, such as Brethren tours to Europe, summer work camps abroad, Annual Conference tours, and visits to our foreign mission fields.

The board labors constantly at co-ordinating the domestic and foreign travel schedules of the church's missionaries, service workers, staff personnel, and deputations. Furthermore, it can be anticipated that travel by Brethren generally will steadily increase in volume in the future. However, at the present time we do not believe there is a sufficient dollar-volume of travel to advise the organization of a travel bureau without a major subsidy for several years from brotherhood funds. Meanwhile it shall be the intention of the General Brotherhood Board to evaluate carefully and frequently the travel facilities, problems, and opportunities of the Brethren.

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Urban Churches

Query, 1952

Standing Committee of 1952 requests the appointment of a committee by the Annual Conference to study the conditions and problems of our urban churches. This study should include such items as conserving members to the brotherhood, using best procedures in locating and financing new churches, the provision of adequate program and leadership in these areas, and the special problems of small churches.

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Request granted. Committee: Harper S. Will (convener), James H. Beahm, I. V. Funderburgh, W. Newton Long, Paul B. Studebaker.

Report of the Committee, 1953

To the close of the nineteenth century the Church of the Brethren has been almost entirely a rural church. Since then and particularly in recent years, population movements have been toward the cities, and within cities toward suburban areas. Many Brethren have been caught up in this mobile trend. Some have lost their Brethren connections. To conserve these and to provide a Christian ministry to the growing number of unchurched groups in our cities is a challenge to the Brethren.

It is generally accepted that the newest and most apparent opportunities for the church today are around the bulging edges of our growing cities. Rural methods are not all suitable for building strong urban churches. An effective urban church promotion strategy needs to be developed if the Brethren are to help in meeting the needs of unchurched areas of urban life.

The committee sent a questionnaire to a sampling of our city church pastors, and among the twenty who responded there was general agreement that Brethren should not find it difficult to minister to city people. There was also general agreement that we could increase our effectiveness by more thorough training of members received and by making more meaningful our rites and ordinances.

It is impossible in one short year for a committee to gather pertinent data and make a thorough analysis of even the major problems involved in the scope of this query. However, the committee attempts in this report to point out a few directions which, if followed, we believe, will start us on the way toward constructive and permanent work in our urban efforts. Accordingly the following observations and recommendations are offered:

A. Regarding Leadership Responsibility

1. Responsibility for leadership in developing new church projects or reviewing the effectiveness of existing urban churches should rest primarily with district boards of administration, district mission boards, or other proper district authorities.

2. Such district authorities should be on the constant alert for opportunities to begin new work, keeping in mind the potential assistance of Brethren residing in these communities.

B. Regarding Existing City Churches

1. The location, facilities, leadership, and program of our small urban churches, and others where specific problems are present, ought to be studied by the proper district and/or brotherhood and regional authorities in conjunction with the local congregations, and appropriate steps taken to strengthen the work or to look toward desirable relocation.

2. An appropriate religious census should be conducted before deciding to close or relocate a church.

C. Regarding Location and Building of New Urban Churches

1. The spiritual needs of a community are to be considered of primary importance in establishing urban church work. This should be measured in terms of the findings of a careful, well-planned religious census and of the ability of the Brethren to serve the present and potential population of the area.

2. In locating new churches recognition and co-operation should be given existing comity agencies, and the available counsel of brotherhood, regional, and district leadership utilized.

3. In an effort to find the general community for a church project,

careful attention should be given to available property for church building and parsonage—its size, suitability, cost, zoning, and other regulations.

4. Plans for financing a new church should be made in the light of the development of the project, and the willingness and ability of the community, the membership of the district, and the general brotherhood to support it.

5. The location, promotion, and program of a new urban church should be planned with the objective of its being a self-supporting congregation within five years. However, it should be recognized that further financial assistance from the district and/or brotherhood may be necessary at times beyond the initial investment for the best interests of the project.

6. The establishment and early progress of new urban churches should have the administrative and supervisory help of the district board or special committee as needed.

D. Miscellaneous Recommendations

1. That our people should be encouraged to seek locations accessible to one of our churches when changing residence.

2. That we should practice the transfer of church membership as adopted at the San Jose Annual Conference [see the 1951 minutes, the query entitled "Membership Transfer"].

3. That Bethany Biblical Seminary be encouraged to provide courses designed to assist in training pastors and parish workers for urban church work.

4. That our Loan Library should add the best books available on urban church work.

5. That Brethren leaders working in urban areas or contemplating such work be urged to consult expert references such as Frederick A. Shippey's book entitled *Church Work in the City*, and *The Effective City Church*, by Murray A. Leiffer.

6. That the Ministry and Home Mission Commission be encouraged to continue reporting in the *Gospel Messenger* stories of those ventures in new church activities that are significant in achievement.

7. That in all our efforts we make Christ central, and keep as our objective the bringing of men, women, youth, and children into personal fellowship with him.

I. V. Funderburgh, Chairman
James H. Beahm, Secretary
W. Newton Long
Paul B. Studebaker
Harper S. Will

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Report accepted and committee continued.

Voting Body in District Meeting of India

The following request came to the Standing Committee and was received for consideration by the Annual Conference.

The Church of the Brethren
Anklesvar, Broach District, B. P.
May 1, 1953

Early in the history of the Joint Council here, a decision was made by the district meetings and the Foreign Mission Commission that, to ensure some continuing tenure in our district meetings, elders and pastors be voting members of the district meeting delegate bodies by virtue of office. This was passed by the Foreign Mission Commission for a trial period of five years; and this period expired a couple of years ago. Now this year the question was raised in district meeting, and the district meeting voted as follows:

"That the decision by which elders and pastors are voting members of district meeting be extended indefinitely."

Be pleased then to have this put on the agenda of the Foreign Mission Commission, General Brotherhood Board, and/or Annual Conference, and to inform the district meetings in India of the decision made.

R. M. Christian, Secretary, First District of India

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Request granted for the next five years from now.

Win Men to Christ

The 1952 Annual Conference adopted as the brotherhood theme for 1952-54, WIN MEN TO CHRIST. Under the constraint of the love of Christ, in whose will alone we find our peace, our brotherhood this past year has sought earnestly so to do.

We have experienced heartening growth in membership; new home mission churches have been started; new frontiers have beckoned; new areas of need have challenged the sacrificial spirit of the church. Everywhere, as we have sought to make disciples, and to minister to the needs of persons in their suffering and tragedy, we have found the deep and unmet hunger for spiritual bread. We have been brought to our knees in prayer for the Spirit's grace that the church may be an adequate channel of the Father's love.

Laymen and laywomen have sat at the feet of Christ as he bade them come after him that he might make them fishers of men. More than four hundred churches united their prayer, concern, and strength in a series of preaching missions in which twenty-four hundred laymen and laywomen and a thousand two hundred young people received training in the skills of winning others to Christ. Thoughtful Brethren have taught, preached, witnessed, and written their deep concern for the redemption of our lost neighbors.

The task is yet unfinished. As we see more clearly the vision of the face of Christ, we see his eyes turned in loving compassion upon our brothers who struggle hopelessly with evil, without his saving grace; upon the millions of children and youth in our own and other lands who have not the guiding light of the word of the gospel to live by; upon the hard and superficial brightness of countless lives lived for material things alone. We see his hands stretched out in appeal to the lost, the frightened and fearful, the exploited and down-trodden, the sad and lonely, that they come to him and find rest.

So long as his compassionate longing for the redemption of all these little ones, his brethren, is unsatisfied, we cannot rest content. Since we are a branch of the church, his body, it is through our hands and lips that he will bring the Bread of Life to a portion of the sixty-six million persons still outside his church in America and of the billion who know him not in other lands.

The lofty obligation to follow Christ, the constraint of his love, the compassion which moves our hearts when we see the hunger and need of our world—all these conspire to make a true and vigorous evangelism central in the life of our church again this year.

Therefore, this Annual Conference calls the church again to *win men to Christ.* In every area of our program, this is now our central aim: that for all children there be faith in God; that for all youth, there be the comradeship of Christ; that for all adults there be the abundant life in Christ. The redemption of our world, the melting of the hard barriers which keep brother men apart, the establishment of honor and justice and peace upon earth, all depend at last upon the faithfulness and effectiveness of our evangelism.

The call to stewardship—to supply for our general brotherhood the sum of $1,275,000 which is required for the carrying on of the brotherhood mission—is a call to evangelism. This we shall give in sacrificial sharing, that through our giving and the sacrificial devotion of the church's servants in the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa, the Church of the Brethren may win men to Christ.

Let this theme then be central in the life, the teaching, the worship, the giving, the whole program of the Church of the Brethren for 1953-54—that all men may receive the abundant life in him—WIN MEN TO CHRIST.

Action of 1953 Annual Conference: Statement adopted.

1954, Ocean Grove, New Jersey

Annual Conference Expenses

Query, 1953

The General Brotherhood Board voted to receive the following paper from the Central Region Board and to pass it on to Standing Committee for consideration.

The Central Region Board in its regular meeting, March 9, 1953, expressed its concern regarding the present arrangement for financing the expenses in connection with location and arrangement of Annual Conference, prior to the time when Conference begins.

In 1949 the Standing Committee voted the following decision about Annual Conference expenses:

"1. That the expense of the regional representatives on the Committee of Arrangements, preliminary to the opening of the Conference, be regarded as regional expense to be paid from regional funds. The expense of those designated to represent the Arrangements Committee during the time of the Conference shall be regarded as brotherhood expense to be paid from the Annual Conference treasury, provided this representation does not exceed three members.

"2. That the expense of the Program Committee be regarded as brotherhood expense to be paid by the Annual Conference treasurer, including the representation of the Program Committee, or Committee on Arrangements.

"3. That the expense for holding the Conference, including rental of auditorium, the making of placards and signs, the travel and honorarium of special speakers, the printing of program and other necessary expense in connection with the actual administration of the Conference be regarded as brotherhood expense to be paid by the Annual Conference treasurer.

"4. That the financial arrangements for holding the Conference be negotiated by the Committee on Arrangements ("Location"), it being understood that the moderator, the clerk, and staff representatives are members of the committee."

In actual practice this has placed a heavy financial burden upon some of the regions in the year when the Conference was held there. The Central Region Board questioned the logic of penalizing a region financially, when it already has many difficult problems in the location and arrangements for Conference, which requires the time and services of many people. Why should a person be eligible to have his expenses paid, after Conference begins, for doing the same type of work that was charged to the region prior to that time?

Because the present arrangement periodically places an undue financial burden on regions, the Central Region Board requests the

General Brotherhood Board to give consideration to this problem, in the hope that a satisfactory solution may be found and that the necessary steps might be taken to correct the present arrangement for financing pre-Conference expenses.

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Answer of Standing Committee adopted. Request granted and referred to a committee for study and report next year. Committee: Robert G. Greiner (convener), E. R. Fisher, Graybill Hershey.

Report of the Committee, 1954

In 1949 the Standing Committee voted the following decision about Annual Conference expenses:

"1. That the expense of the regional representative on the Committee of Arrangements, preliminary to the opening of the Conference, be regarded as regional expense to be paid from regional funds. The expense of those designated to represent the Arrangements Committee during the time of the Conference shall be regarded as brotherhood expense to be paid from the Annual Conference treasury, provided this representation does not exceed three members."

In answer to the query we would recommend that this be amended to read as follows:

"1. That the expense of the regional representatives on the Committee of Arrangements shall be regarded as brotherhood expense to be paid from the Annual Conference treasury, provided this representation does not exceed three members."

2. Upon its adoption, we recommend it to be effective with the 1955 Conference.

E. R. Fisher (chairman), Robert Greiner, Graybill Hershey

Answer of 1954 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Brotherhood Fund Goal, 1954-55

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to the Ocean Grove Conference of 1954 a Brotherhood Fund goal of $1,300,000 for the church year beginning October 1, 1954. This is only $25,000 more than the goal for this year.

This is a small advance, and is the amount needed to carry forward the program of the Lord's work in the year ahead.

The board has carefully studied the plans and projects of the commissions and in view of the great needs would challenge the church to reach this goal.

Goals for brotherhood giving seem to inspire response in sharing resources to support the world-wide witness of the church. So many important opportunities await Christian sacrifice and the board calls upon the church to give as unto the Lord—to preach the gospel, to teach the children, to build the church, and to help the needy.

Answer of 1954 Annual Conference: Recommendation adopted.

Brotherhood Theme, 1954-56

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference through Standing Committee the adoption of the theme, SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM, for a two-year period beginning October 1, 1954.

The General Brotherhood Board has prepared an interpretative, inspirational statement which suggests some of the implications of this theme for all of life. The reading of this statement is planned as a part of the Sunday evening convocation service.

Answer of 1954 Annual Conference: Recommendation adopted for a two-year period beginning October 1, 1954.

District Authority Over Churches

Query, 1953

The First Church of the Brethren in Alliance, in regular council assembled, April 20, 1952, asks district conference of Northeastern Ohio to petition Annual Conference to appoint a committee to study the advisability and possibility of having some authority in each district to step in and take over the operation of any church where the minister has gone wrong morally or spiritually, or who persists in criticism of our church leaders or doctrine and causes division among members of the church.

Robert N. Antram, Acting Clerk

Answer of district conference: Passed to Annual Conference.

E. G. Diehm, Clerk

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Request granted and the committee is also instructed to codify the actions of Annual Conference bearing on this problem. Committee: E. M. Detwiler (convener), Kenneth Hollinger, Edward Kintner.

Report of the Committee, 1954

We believe that the newly revised pamphlet on brotherhood organization will bring together many of our Annual Conference decisions relating to matters of organization and discipline in our brotherhood. We are submitting to the officers and the Standing Committee of Annual Conference a codified list of the minutes we found that pertain to the matter raised by the query of last year's Annual Conference.

The brotherhood organization plan adopted by Annual Conference in recent years, in matters dealing with discipline of ministers, elders, and moderators of local churches, has placed the responsibility on the elders' body of the district. Therefore, to bring our decisions of authority over churches in line with our present organization, we recommend that the authority asked for in the query be vested in the elders' body of the district. In such cases the elders' body may select a committee—

1. To have complete supervision of the church, superseding the local minister, elder, or moderator, if the elders' body believe this to be necessary; or

2. To act in an advisory capacity to the church, the minister, the elder, or the moderator of the local church, as the elders' body may believe to be best.

In either case, this committee shall act in their assigned capacity until such time as they are relieved by the elders' body. It should be understood that the elders' body in the appointing of such a committee is still free to exercise its disciplinary authority as outlined by Annual Conference.

An elder, a member of any district board, a member of the official board, or any active layman from the church may suggest in a signed statement to the moderator of the elders' body the need in a local church for investigation and possible use of such a committee.

E. M. Detwiler, Convener
Kenneth W. Hollinger, Secretary
Edward Kintner

Answer of 1954 Annual Conference: Report adopted as amended by the committee with the insertion of the words "in a signed statement" in the last paragraph.

Eligibility of Standing Committee Members

Standing Committee recommended to the Annual Conference of 1954 that it amend the statement on Constitution and Function of Standing Committee, section C on Eligibility, by the insertion of the words, "immediately before election" after the words "one year," the amended statement to read as follows: "Any elder, minister, or member of the laity who has been in the district for at least one year immediately before election and who fulfills the qualifications as set forth by Annual Conference may serve the district on Standing Committee."

Answer of 1954 Annual Conference: Recommendation adopted.

Extension of Annuity Rates

The General Brotherhood Board recommends to Annual Conference through Standing Committee that the Uniform Annuity Agreement Rate Table as adopted by the June 1945 Annual Conference be extended to seven percent for older ages under agreements covering two persons as indicated on the table below. It is further recommended that the table be adopted for use of other brotherhood organizations.

UNIFORM ANNUITY AGREEMENT RATES
TWO LIVES—JOINT LIFE AND SURVIVOR

Calculated on the basis recommended to the Interdenominational Annuity Rate Conference, October 4, 1939. Adopted by the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in June 1945. Combined annuity mortality table. Interest at 3½%. Two females ages set back two years. Residuum 70%.

AGE OF OLDER LIFE

AGE OF YOUNGER LIFE	95	94	93	92	91	90	89	88	87	86	85	84	83	82	81
86									7.0	6.9					
85								7.0	6.9	6.8	6.7				
84						7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.5			
83			7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.3		
82	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.2	
81	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0
80	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.9
79	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.8
78	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8
77	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7
76	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.6
75	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5

Projection of rates for ages of ninety-five. These go beyond the printed table showing ages to eighty only. In order to have only one table of extended rates we are embodying in this schedule the rates to age eighty-five, rates issued under date of May 24, 1946. Note that the ages of the older life are shown from eighty-one to ninety-five while the ages of the younger life are shown from seventy-five to eighty-six. However, the rates are stopped at equal ages on the one hand and when they reach the limiting rate of 7.0%.

The above table was prepared 4-21-54 by Huggins & Co. for the General Brotherhood Board. The regular table in use does not carry ages of persons above eighty years who wish a Brethren annuity. Assuming that the Huggins table is scientifically correct the residue from agreements entered into using this above-eighty table should be the same as from the legal annuity table.

Answer of 1954 Annual Conference: Recommendation adopted as revised.

Keeping Church Records

Query, 1953

We, the churches of the Western District of Pennsylvania, petition Annual Conference to study and evaluate our policy regarding the use and disposition of valuable historical data and documents. As a basis for such procedure, we offer the following at the recommendation of our District Historical Committee:

Inasmuch as all minutes, deeds, and historical documents of local churches and district boards, committees, and other church organizations are the property of the local church and/or of the district, rather than of the individuals charged with recording such proceedings, we recommend:

1. That each local church provide and conserve faithfully such records in a safe place.

2. That all minutes of district organizations, defunct and functioning (except those in current use), be placed in a central repository.

3. That such records be made available to persons concerned, especially historical committees.

We petition Annual Meeting through district meeting to make this the general policy of the brotherhood.

Answer of district meeting: Adopted and passed to Annual Meeting.

Clarence R. Bowman, Clerk

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Referred to the General Brotherhood Board for study and report next year, as well as for subsequent promotion among the churches.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1954

We approve the policies set forth in this query and ask local congregations, districts, regions, and institutions of the church to arrange for the responsible and safe care of their records and documents.

We call attention to our Historical Library at Elgin as a central repository for the brotherhood and to our college and seminary libraries as repositories also interested in preserving the records of the church.

The General Brotherhood Board

Answer of 1954 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Membership in Secret Societies

Query, 1952

We, the New Hope congregation, in council assembled, petition the district conference of Southern Missouri and Arkansas, assembled in the Carthage, Missouri, church, August 17-20, 1951, to petition Annual Conference to restate the Church of the Brethren interpretation of the New Testament teaching as it relates to secret orders or oath-bound societies.

Mary A. Birkhead, Clerk

Answer of district conference: Passed to Annual Conference.

Orin Harvey, District Clerk

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Request is granted by the appointment of a committee to make a study of this problem and to formulate the restatement for the consideration of next year's Annual Conference. Committee: Harper S. Will (convener), Warren D. Bowman, Kenneth I. Morse.

Report of the Committee, 1953

The committee views its assignment as twofold: to make a study of the situation in our churches with regard to membership in secret societies, and to formulate a restatement of our church's position for consideration by Annual Conference. In order to complete a careful study, already initiated this year, the committee reports progress and asks for another year to complete its assignment.

Harper S. Will, Chairman
Warren D. Bowman
Kenneth I. Morse

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Report of progress accepted and request for more time granted.

Report of the Committee, 1954

On the basis of information secured from representative pastors and laymen across the brotherhood, the committee concludes that membership in secret societies involves only a small percentage of our members and creates a serious problem for only a few churches. Yet we believe that where such association with secret orders affects the loyalty of members to their church it constitutes enough of a problem that the church should again state its conviction that membership in secret, oath-bound orders represents a compromise with secular standards that is unworthy of a consecrated Christian. The New Testament, though not commenting on secret societies as such, is clearly opposed to the taking of oaths and to associations whose aims may be counter to the ideals of the church. When Christians are confronted with such a conflict of loyalties, they must "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness."

We urge pastors, on receiving members, to give specific instruction on the position of the church on this matter, emphasizing the member's primary loyalty to Jesus Christ and his church. We believe that the supreme claims of the church, not only in regard to secret orders but also in relation to other clubs, fraternities, and social and professional organizations should be repeatedly brought to the attention of members. In situations where the effective witness of a local congregation is hindered because of the association of members with secret societies, we recommend that the church leaders seek counsel from the elders' body, the ministerial board, or the board of administration of the district. We recommend that when members continue their participation in secret societies the churches hold them in loving fellowship provided their conduct is otherwise consistent with the Christian faith. At the same time we should seek to make the church so vital and its fellowship so genuine for all members that none will feel the need for associations such as those offered by the fraternal orders.

Harper S. Will, Chairman
Warren D. Bowman
Kenneth I. Morse

Answer of 1954 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Methods of Financial Promotion

Query, 1952

The following recommendation of the elders' body in the form of a query to Annual Conference was accepted unanimously by the delegates:

"Recognizing the difficulties involved in securing adequate and suitable financial support for all aspects of a unified program, since some phases possess more popular appeal than other necessary functions, we, the district conference of Southwestern Kansas, assembled in the Eden Valley church, request the Annual Conference to appoint a committee to study our methods of financial promotion and to devise a plan by which all aspects of the general brotherhood program shall receive their proper proportionate share of brotherhood giving."

Raymond L. Flory, Writing Clerk

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Referred to the General Brotherhood Board for study and report next year.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1953

The General Brotherhood Board reports progress and asks for more time to study methods of financial promotion.

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Request for more time granted.

Report of the General Brotherhood Board, 1954

This query presents a difficult and continuing problem. It is related not only to the Brotherhood Fund but to the budgets of districts and local churches as well. There probably is no final answer to the problem except patience and perseverance in the discipline of Christian stewardship.

We, however, offer the following recommendations in the belief that they will be helpful in relation to the problem of the query:

First: That pastors and officers of the local churches and officers and secretaries of districts, regions, and the brotherhood give greater encouragement to unrestricted giving to the Brotherhood Fund by our people, recognizing that all items of the fund are essential to the full and complete ministry of the church.

Second: That the principle of designated giving continue to be respected for all who desire to give to special causes in which they have a particular interest but that all such gifts be expected to bear the full expense of their administration.

Third: That all districts of the brotherhood seek to determine, in the spirit of sharing in the total work of the church, what is their rightful proportionate giving to the Brotherhood Fund. We would further urge that the current giving of our people be remitted monthly to the ongoing work of the church.

Fourth: The Brotherhood Fund as presented to the Conference represents intensive study of the program of the church in relation to world needs. An effort is made to adjust and correlate the items of the budget in the most equitable manner and with due consideration to the needs which prevail in districts and in local churches. The expenditures of the church through the General Brotherhood Board are reported to Annual Conference in great detail. We urge the delegates to give close scrutiny to these items and to offer suggestions freely to the General Brotherhood Board.

We believe that the advantages of the unified budget far outweigh the difficulties of administration. The Conference, therefore, urges our churches to strive to improve their procedures in the interest of an equitable and effective sharing of the funds of the church in its total world-wide ministry.

The General Brotherhood Board

Answer of 1945 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Pastoral Care of Rural Churches

Query, 1952

1. Because the rural church is important in the life of the brotherhood;

2. Because many of our rural churches are small in the number of members and cannot afford full-time pastoral care;

3. Because many small rural churches are without resident ministerial help, and the present outlook offers little hope for improvement;

4. Because the small rural church demands specialized leadership

adapted to rural conditions which are usually quite different from those of our larger rural and urban churches;

5. Because there is evidence that the rural church and its setting deserves more intelligent understanding, genuine appreciation, and exalted promotion in the Church of the Brethren than it now receives;

We, the Ministerial Board of the Second District of Virginia, petition Annual Conference through the district conference of the Second District of Virginia to provide a thorough study of this matter. The findings of this report should indicate with factual data the importance and health of our rural churches in the brotherhood and the present situation and outlook as to pastoral care. It might include suggestions for enlisting ministers for service in rural areas, propose programs for support, partial or full time, whereby the local church might secure resident ministerial care; suggest ways and means by which our colleges and seminary might more adequately promote this emphasis; and such other points as may seem pertinent in order that the church might move toward the solution of this problem.

Boyd E. Cupp, Secretary

Answer of district conference: Passed to Annual Conference.

M. R. Wolfe, District Secretary

Answer of 1952 Annual Conference: Report adopted as revised, and amended to include the following as a final paragraph:

The Rural Life Advisory Council and the director of evangelism and the rural church are asked (1) to study further the problems of the rural church, (2) to encourage the appropriate agencies to carry out the above recommendations, and (3) to bring a report of progress to the 1953 Annual Conference. The Rural Life Advisory Council: Robert F. Eshleman (chairman), Edward K. Ziegler (secretary), Ross A. Heminger, Harold E. Kettering, Paul E. Miller, Daryl M. Parker.

Report of the Rural Life Advisory Council, 1953

The Rural Life Advisory Council, in following the mandate of the 1952 Annual Conference "to

"(1) study further the problems of the rural church;

"(2) encourage the appropriate agencies to carry out the recommendations of the 1952 committee report; and

"(3) to bring a report of progress to the 1953 Annual Conference," submits this report of progress in the work assigned:

Study of the Problems of the Rural Church

The council has initiated studies of the growth and decline of rural churches, and encouraged serious students of our rural church to share and exchange data and findings which will lead to understanding and creative planning. Several significant conferences have been held, particularly at Manchester College and in Southern Ohio, to deal with the problems of rural church life. One member of the council is preparing a book which will give guidance to rural churches in keeping our rural communities stable and Christian.

In several districts, strong committees have been set up to encourage the churches in placement and maintenance of farms in Brethren hands. Many rural churches are likewise taking this step and setting up land and home committees.

Much attention has been given to rural evangelism. The director of evangelism has held thirty-nine conferences, either on a district or subdistrict level, in which the outreach of the rural church and rural evangelism have been stressed.

RURAL LIFE EMPHASIS IN THE COLLEGES

Two of our colleges have strong rural life programs. McPherson offers a major in rural life, with substantial offerings in both rural sociology and the rural church on the one hand, and practical courses on the other. A core curriculum in rural life is in the process of preparation.

Manchester has begun the organization of a program of rural life studies, comparable to its eminently successful program of peace studies.

Bridgewater works closely with the state agricultural college and is interested in finding a man who will do both teaching and extension work in this field.

The other colleges offer some courses in rural sociology, but have no specific emphasis here. They offer some extension courses of value to rural and urban churches alike.

Aside from the two first mentioned there is no progress to be reported in the action of our colleges in line with the recommendations of last year's Conference minutes. This is an area of very great and urgent need.

BETHANY BIBLICAL SEMINARY

Because of the change in administration at Bethany, there is no progress to report in the fulfillment of the Conference recommendations of 1952. It is apparent that at least an adequate proportion of Bethany Seminary graduates are committed to serving in rural churches, in many cases at considerable personal sacrifice. The Rural Life Advisory Council is strongly of the opinion that we must move in the direction of having a department of rural church in the seminary as soon as it can be worked out.

The decline in membership and rate of growth in many predominantly rural districts of the church is still very alarming. It is urgent that all departments of the life and work of the church will serve to strengthen, rebuild, and renew the life of rural churches, if the Church of the Brethren is to survive.

Rural Life Advisory Council:
Robert F. Eshleman, Chairman
Edward K. Ziegler, Secretary
Harold E. Kettering
Daryl M. Parker
Paul E. Miller
Ross A. Heminger

Answer of 1953 Annual Conference: Report accepted and committee continued.

Report of the Rural Life Advisory Council, 1954

The rural churches (open-country and those in towns and villages under two thousand five hundred population, by U. S. Census definition) constitute seventy-three percent of our total congregations, and contain approximately sixty-four percent of our total membership. About one third of the rural churches have full-time pastors, as over against eighty-five percent of the urban churches. Many rural churches are served by a minister who divides his time between two or more churches. Fully as many or more are served by men who give only part time to the ministry and make the greater proportion of their living from farming, teaching, or some other rural business or profession.

The Southeastern and Western regions have the most acute problem in pastoral care. Some districts in the Southeastern Region have never had adequate leadership, and are retarded in their total church life as a consequence. The greater part of the Western Region finds its open-country churches in areas of rapidly declining population, and the churches there must have statesmanlike leadership to adapt location and program to the rapidly changing needs.

LEADERSHIP NEEDS FOR OUR RURAL CHURCHES

The committee recognizes that in all areas the problem of securing and maintaining adequate leadership—ministers and laymen with a profound understanding of rural life and with a deep consecration to the welfare of the Christian rural community—is a paramount problem. We see and would point out to the church the need for a much more vigorous and adequate program of leadership training on three levels.

Graduate Training for Professional Leaders

We reiterate the emphasis in former reports to Annual Conference upon the need for a strong rural church department in our seminary [1952 and 1953]. We are deeply conscious of the common core of training necessary for competent ministers, wherever they may be called to serve. Nevertheless, we believe that adequate courses should be offered to train our ministers specifically for rural and for urban work. We would note that all Methodist seminaries, most Presbyterian seminaries, and many of other churches as well now have rural church departments.

We would urge that ministers avail themselves of the opportunities now offered for graduate in-service summer training in several of the best seminaries. We commend the General Brotherhood Board for making scholarship aid available for ministers attending such schools.

Training in the Colleges

The committee commends the department of rural life in McPherson College and the rural life studies program at Manchester College as vigorous attempts to make the college a source of continuing help to our rural churches. It is essential that in all our colleges there be guidance and curriculum emphases designed for a better understanding of rural life and the church to meet the needs of young people, in farm and non-farm occupations and vocations, planning to continue life and work in rural communities. Rural life conferences, vocational guidance techniques which give adequate emphasis to rural vocations, aid to rural churches in research and extension services, more adequate curricular offerings in preparation for life and work in rural Christian communities are essential developments if the colleges are to deserve the support and patronage of our rural churches, which constitute so large a proportion of their constituency.

In-Service Training for Lay Leaders and Part-Time and Free Ministers

The committee sees as one of the most important steps in providing more adequate care for rural churches the planning of a comprehensive in-service training program for the leaders of these churches. Some regions and districts have already made great strides by setting up conferences for deacons and pastoral boards, as well as the constant and excellent series of in-service training provisions for church-school workers.

The General Brotherhood Board, the regional offices, and the colleges should set up training institutes which would offer to free and part-time ministers the training and inspiration which were received in times past through the college Bible terms and other training facilities.

For a long time to come, many of our churches will have the free ministry and/or the ministry of men without complete professional training. It is essential that the best of in-service training be regularly offered, and that they be urged to take advantage of such training.

PLACEMENT PLANS FOR RURAL CHURCHES

Every rural church should have a standing committee charged with placement in the church community. These committees should not

TABLE I STATISTICAL REPORT ON RURAL CHURCHES

Region	Number Open-country Churches	Village Churches	Open-country and Village Churches	Urban Churches	Total Churches by Regions	Percentage of Total Churches in Region Which Are Rural
Eastern	95	45	140	63	203	68.9%
Southeastern ...	200	38	238	46	284	83.8%
Central	157	65	222	81	303	73.2%
Western	87	46	133	38	171	77.7%
Pacific	12	19	31	41	72	43.0%
Total	551	213	764	269	1,033	73.9%

TABLE II PASTORAL CARE OF RURAL CHURCHES AND FULL-TIME PASTORS IN URBAN CHURCHES

Region	Total Number Country and Village Churches	Free Ministry: Number	Free Ministry: Percentage of Total	Part-time Pastors Number	Part-time Pastors: Percentage of Total	Full-time Pastors Number	Full-time Pastors: Percentage of Total	Total Number Urban Churches	Number Urban Churches With Full-time Pastors	Urban Churches: Percentage of Total
Eastern	140	35	25.0	60	42.8	45	32.2	63	54	85.7
Southeastern ..	238	54	22.4	127	53.3	57	23.3	46	38	82.1
Central	222	12	5.4	124	55.8	86	38.7	81	73	90.1
Western	133	11	8.3	77	57.9	45	33.8	38	30	77.9
Pacific	31	3	9.7	8	25.5	20	64.5	41	38	92.6
Total ...	764	115	15.1	396	51.7	253	33.1	269	233	86.6

only seek farms for those wanting land; they should find opportunities in all kinds of wholesome non-farm occupations and seek to attract young people to all kinds of vocational and professional openings in the community. They should also serve as a clearing-house for places to live. They should be the local church agency for co-operation with the brotherhood placement service.

Districts and regions should provide institutes to train the personnel of placement committees for their tasks.

LOCAL CHURCH RESPONSIBILITY

The local church is at last responsible for its own leadership. The church must constantly be on the alert to find, encourage, train, and give responsibility to local indigenous leadership. The church should encourage, both in spirit and through financial aid, its lay and ministerial leaders to attend conferences, district, regional, and annual. It should likewise place in its budget adequate provision for giving aid in attending leadership training classes, institutes, and conferences.

The local church must recognize and accept its responsibility for laying the claims of the Christian ministry and other full-time church-related vocations upon its finest youth, at the same time nurturing the sense of Christian vocation in all its members.

Committee, The Rural Life Advisory Council:
Robert F. Eshleman
Harold E. Kettering
Donald Royer
Paul E. Miller
Ross Heminger
Edward K. Ziegler

Answer of 1954 Annual Conference: Report adopted and referred to the General Brotherhood Board to take under consideration whether there is need for a secretary of town and country church and, if so, bring a recommendation to Annual Conference.

Publication of Annual Conference Minutes

The Annual Conference of 1954 voted to lift up and refer to the General Brotherhood Board for implementation the Annual Conference minute of 1943 authorizing the editing and publication of Annual Conference minutes every ten years.

Schwarzenau Memorial

Queries

1. COMMEMORATIVE MARKER AT SCHWARZENAU

In looking forward to the 235th anniversary of the Mother Church in this country in 1958, we are reminded of the 250th anniversary of the beginning of our church in Schwarzenau, Germany, in the year 1708. The Mother Church in America at Germantown, Pennsylvania, in council requests through the district conference of Southeastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Northern Delaware, and Eastern New York, that the Annual Conference authorize the erection of a suitable marker in Schwarzenau commemorating the 250th anniversary of the beginning of our church, the Church of the Brethren. The work would be directed by the Historical Committee under the supervision of the Brethren Service Commission and the Board of Christian Education. All Brethren bodies should be invited to co-operate. Offerings should be asked of all our congregations as well as from all interested parties.

E. F. Ertel, Clerk

Answer of district conference: Passed on to Annual Conference.

D. Alfred Replogle, Clerk

Answer of 1954 Annual Conference: This query to be considered together with the query which follows.

2. SCHWARZENAU CHURCH MEMORIAL

Since 1958 will represent two hundred fifty years of the history of the Church of the Brethren, we the Bethel church request the 1953 district conference of Northern Indiana to request the Annual Conference of 1954 to authorize the Historical Committee of the church, working through the Christian Education and Brethren Service commissions of the church, to plan a suitable memorial at Schwarzenau, Germany, to commemorate the beginning of our church there, and to request each congregation to contribute ten dollars or more to this cause, and to seek the co-operation of other Brethren bodies in this historical project.

Iva Neff, Clerk

Answer of district meeting: Request granted and passed to Annual Meeting.

Answer of 1954 Annual Conference: Those queries referred to the General Brotherhood Board for favorable consideration and power to act in their planning for the 250th anniversary of the founding of our church.

Stewardship of Accumulated Possessions

The District of Southern Ohio, at its ninety-ninth district conference at Covington, November 5, 1953, passed the following query to the Annual Conference at Ocean Grove, New Jersey, June 15-20, 1954:

Inasmuch as the Annual Conference of 1944 set forth the position of the Church of the Brethren, giving guidance to members with respect to proportional giving and tithing, and believing this is usually interpreted as applying largely to the stewardship of current income, We, the district board of Southern Ohio, ask district conference to propose to Annual Conference that a statement be issued with regard to the stewardship of accumulated possessions through the instrumentality of a Christian will, the annuity plan, or some other effective means.

We offer the following statement to be considered in the answer of Annual Conference:

STEWARDSHIP OF ACCUMULATED POSSESSIONS

A Christian is a steward of all life and possessions. The Conference of 1944 set forth the position of the church with respect to proportionate giving and tithing. We now call upon our members as they make their wills or otherwise plan for the distribution of their accumulated possessions, to express their Christian faith by providing resources for the work of Christ's Kingdom. We ask ministers and teachers to uphold deep spiritual motives in the acquiring, the using, and the distributing of financial assets.

Answer of 1954 Annual Conference: Statement adopted as the action of Annual Conference.

Travel Pool for Standing Committee Delegates

Query, 1953

Believing that:

1—Standing Committee is functioning at her best when there is the fullest participation by all districts through their delegates,

2—The burden of sending delegates is unduly heavy upon small districts located on the perimeter of the brotherhood in North America,

3—Other organizations, including our own Church of the Brethren Youth Fellowship in their national youth gatherings held biennially, have found material advantage in the travel pool,

We, the Second Irricana church, petition district meeting of Western Canada, assembled June 29—July 2, 1952, to request a study to be made concerning the possibility of establishing a travel pool for all Standing Committee delegates.

Mrs. J. J. Crawford, Clerk

Answer of district conference: Passed by the district meeting.

Fred E. Oberholtzer, District Secretary

Answer of the 1953 Annual Conference: Request for the study was granted. Committee: Robert G. Greiner (convener), Everett R. Fisher, Graybill Hershey.

Report of the Committee, 1954

After a study of comparative costs to the districts for Standing Committee delegates over a five-year period, and of the problems and expense involved in setting up and administering a travel pool, your committee feels that this proposal would create more problems than it would solve. We, therefore, do not advise the establishment of a travel pool for Standing Committee delegates.

We do want to express a concern for those districts whose size and location make the sending of a delegate more of a problem, particularly in the years when Conference is farthest away from those districts. As a partial answer to this problem we would invite each of the regional boards to consider the advisability of a Standing Committee delegate travel pool for their particular region.

E. R. Fisher, Robert Greiner, Graybill Hershey

Answer of 1954 Annual Conference: Report adopted.

Voting Privileges of Elders in the Second District of India

The Second District of India in its Annual Meeting at Palghar, February 19-22, 1954, requests that the privilege previously granted for ordained elders to be voting members of district meeting be extended for an additional five-year period.

S. S. Thorat, Secretary

Answer of 1954 Annual Conference: Request granted to 1958 to coincide with the privilege granted to the First District of India in 1953.

Index

Accumulated Possessions, Stewardship of, 225
Adoption of the Revised Standard Version, Proposed, 198
Advance Movement, 87, 107
Advance With Christ, 44
Advancements and Standards in the Ministry, 128
Alcohol, Statement on, 178
Alternative Service, 100
Amendment of the Charter of the General Mission Board Trustee in Iowa for the Church of the Brethren, 89
Amendment to the Pension Plan, 89
Amendments to the Conference Rules, 130
Amendments to the Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan, 47
Amendments to the Pension Plan, 130
Annual Conference
  Delegates to, 122
  Expenses, 210
  Local Representation at, 33
  Permanent Location for, 104
  Place and Time of, 104
  Regular Locations for, 201
  Study of Dates for, 104
  Verbatim Report of, 117
Annual Conference Minutes, Publication of, 224
Annuity Rates, Extension of, 213
Apprenticeship, Pastoral, 151

Bethany Biblical Seminary
  Campus Improvements, 9
  Financial Support of, 131
  Financing of, 192
  Revised Budget for, 41
  Solicitation of Funds by, 124
Bethany Hospital, 107
Bethany Hospital and Our Educational Institutions, 90
Bethany Hospital Relationships, 118
Bible Training Problem, 163
Brethren Emphasis for 1949-50, 109
Brethren Hymnal, Publication of, 40
Brethren Publishing House, Reincorporation of, 41
Brethren Service Budget, 1946-47, 9
Brethren Service Commission, Revised Budget for, 41
Brethren Volunteer Service, Future of, 132
Brotherhood Fund
  1948-49, 51
  1949-50, 96
  1950-51, 112
Brotherhood Fund, Revision of
  1948-49, 104
  1949-50, 115
  1950-51, 119
Brotherhood Fund Goal
  1951-52, 131
  1952-53, 170
  1953-54, 190
  1954-55, 211
Brotherhood Organization, 26, 52
  Revision of, 153
  Revision of the Pamphlet, 202
Brotherhood Theme
  1950-51, 120
  1952-54, 170
  1954-56, 212
Brotherhood Theme and Slogan, 27
Budget, Brotherhood, 1947-48, 26
Budget, Revision of
  1945-46, 24
  1947-48, 82
Budget Receipts, Division of, 13

Call to Repentance, 28
Central Agency for Vocational Placement, 190
Change of Historical Commission, 97
"Christ the Hope of the World," 27
Christian Education Commission, Revised Budget for, 42
Christian Position on Registration, 100
Church Boards, Nomination for, 22
Church Headquarters, Location of, 136
Church Membership, 28
  Teaching for, 28
Church of the Brethren Radio Hour, 191
Church Property
  District Control of, 12
  District Title of, 12
Church Records, Keeping, 215
Churches
  District Authority Over, 212
  Urban, 205
Churches, Federal Council of, 14
Civilian Public Service, Directives on, 33
Colleges, Financial Support of, 19
Commission of Fifteen
  Dismissal of, 113
  Report of, 26, 52

Commissions, Nomenclature of, 82
Compulsory Military Training, 9
Concern for Ministerial Recruitment, 192
Conference Budget, 1946-47, 11
Conference Rules, Amendments to, 130
Conference Trustees, 32
Consecration Service, Enlarged, 113
Control of Church Property, District, 12
Co-operation in Organizing New Churches, 33
Co-operation With Other Brethren Bodies, 80
Date for the Pastoral Year, 172
Delegates to Annual Conference, 122
Directives on Civilian Public Service, 33
Discipline, Ministerial, 21
Discrimination, Statement on, 203
Dismissal of Commission of Fifteen, 113
Displaced Persons, Statement on, 116
District Authority Over Churches, 212
District Control of Church Property, 12
District Meeting of India, Voting Body of, 208
District Title of Church Property, 12
Districts, Redistribution of, 176
Division of Budget Receipts, 13
Duties of the Moderator, Study of, 25

Economic Problems, Statement on, 158
Elders in the Second District of India, Voting Privileges of, 227
Eligibility of Standing Committee Members, 213
Endowment Funds, Investment of, 194
Enlarged Consecration Service, 113
Equalization of Pastors' Salaries, 172
Expenses, Annual Conference, 210
Expense of Publishing the Yearbook, 123
Extension of Annuity Rates, 213
Europe, Mission Points in, 99
Evangelism, 14

Federal Council of Churches, 14
Federal Income Tax Deductions, 114
Financial Promotion
  Methods of, 217
  Responsibility for, 82
Financial Support of Bethany Seminary, 131
Financial Support of Colleges, 19
Financing of Bethany Biblical Seminary, 192
Financing the Regional Program, 123
Fiscal Year of the General Brotherhood Board, 114
Future of Brethren Volunteer Service, 132

General Boards Reorganization, Study of, 25
General Brotherhood Board, Fiscal Year of, 114
General Church Government, Our, 195
General Mission Board Trustee in Iowa for the Church of the Brethren, Amendment of the Charter of, 89
Goodwill Toward Other Nationals, 134

Handbook for New Church Members, 135
Help for Ministerial and Other Students, 97
Historical Commission
  Change of, 97
  Revised Budget for, 24
Historical Society Recognized, 19
Home Missions, Study of, 25
Homes for Older People, 135

Identification Symbol for Brethren, 193
Inactive and Nonresident Members, 28
Income Tax Deductions, Federal, 114
International Conference on Peace and World Order, 193
Investment of Endowment Funds, 194

Keeping Church Records, 215

Licensed Ministers, Reading Course for, 200
Licensing and Ordaining Ministers, 36
Liquors, Magazines Advertising, 98
Literature for Youth, 174
Loan Fund, Parish, 24
Local Representation at Annual Conference, 33
Location of Church Headquarters, 136
Love Feast, Participation in, 150

Magazines Advertising Liquor, 98
Membership
  Church, 28
  In Secret Societies, 215
  Inactive and Nonresident, 28
  Transfer, 137
"Men and Millions for Christ," 27
Methods of Financial Promotion, 217
Military Training
  Compulsory, 9
  Peacetime Conscription and, 39
  Statement on, 10
  Universal Compulsory, 83
Ministerial and Missionary Pension Plan, Amendments to, 47

Ministerial and Missionary Service Fund, 98
  Administration of, 9
Ministerial and Other Students, Help for, 97
Ministerial Discipline, 21
Ministerial Placement, 141
Ministerial Recruitment, Concern for, 192
Ministers, Licensing and Ordaining, 33
Ministry, Advancements and Standards in, 128
Ministry, Women in, 185
Ministry to Negroes, 81
Mission Points in Europe, 99
Mutual Aid Society, 37

Negroes, Ministry to, 81
New Brethren Hymnal, Publication of, 40
New Church Members, Handbook for, 135
New Churches, Co-operation in Organizing, 33
Nomenclature of Commissions, 82
Nominations for Church Boards, 22

Older People, Homes for, 135
One Million Dollars for Christ, 23
Organization, Brotherhood, 26
Other Brethren Bodies, Co-operation With, 80
Other Nationals, Goodwill Toward, 134
Our Educational Institutions, Bethany Hospital and, 90
Our General Church Government, 195
Our Over-all Program, 148

Parish Loan Funds, 24
Participation in the Love Feast, 150
Pastor, Procedure in Calling, 141
Pastoral Apprenticeship, 151
Pastoral Care of Rural Churches, 218
Pastoral Year, Date for, 172
Pastors' Salaries, Equalization of, 172
Peace and World Order, International Conference on, 193
Peace Education and Promotion, 152
Peace Education, Transfer of, 43
Peacetime Conscription and Military Training, 39
Pension Plan
  Amendment to, 89
  Amendments to, 130
  Proposed Revision of, 198
Place and Time of Annual Conference, 104
Placement, Ministerial, 141
Position and Practices of the Church of the Brethren in Relation to War, 100
Procedure in Calling a Pastor, 141
Proposed Adoption of the Revised Standard Version, 198
Proposed Revision of the Pension Plan, 198
Publication of a New Brethren Hymnal, 40
Publication of Annual Conference Minutes, 224
Publicity Evils, 114

Race, Statement on, 124
Radio Hour, Church of the Brethren, 191
Rate Revision, Special Gift (Annuity) Agreement, 25
Reading Course for Licensed Ministers, 200
Redistribution of Districts, 176
Regional Program, Financing the, 123
Registration, Christian Position on, 100
Regular Location for Annual Conference, 201
Reincorporation of the Brethren Publishing House, 41
Relationships, Bethany Hospital, 118
Reorganization of Our General Boards, 25
Repentance, Call to, 28
Responsibility for Financial Promotion, 82
Revised Standard Version
  Proposed Adoption of, 198
  Statement of the General Brotherhood Board on Our Sunday-school Publications and the Use of, 202
Revision of the Brotherhood Organization, 153
Revision of the Conference Budget
  1945-46, 24
  1947-48, 82
Revision of the Pamphlet, Brotherhood Organization, 202
Revision of the Pension Plan, Proposed, 198
Rural Churches, Pastoral Care of, 218

Schwarzenau
  Church Memorial, 225
  Commemorative Marker at, 224
Second District of India, Voting Privileges of Elders in, 227
Secret Societies, Membership in, 215

Solicitation of Funds by Bethany Biblical Seminary, 124
Special Gift (Annuity) Agreement Rate Revision, 25
Special Sunday-school Lessons, 42
Standing Committee Delegates, Travel Pool for, 226
Standing Committee Members, Eligibility of, 213
Statement of the General Brotherhood Board on Our Sunday-school Publications and the Use of the Revised Standard Version, 202
Statement on Alcohol, 178
Statement on Discrimination, 203
Statement on Displaced Persons, 116
Statement on Economic Problems, 158
Statement on Race, 124
Statement on Tobacco, 180
Statement to the World Council Assembly, 106
Stewardship of Accumulated Possessions, 225
Sunday-school Lessons, Special, 42
Supplemental Pension Fund, 42
Symbolism in Worship, 182

Teaching for Church Membership, 28
Temporary Representation to the World Council of Churches, 43
Title of Church Property, District, 12
Tobacco, Statement on, 180
Transfer of Peace Education, 43
Travel Bureau for Brethren, 204
Travel Pool for Standing Committee Delegates, 226
Trustees, Conference, 32

Universal Compulsory Military Training, 83
Urban Churches, 205

Verbatim Report of Annual Conference, 117
Vocational Placement, Central Agency for, 190
Voting Body in District Meeting of India, 208
Voting Privileges of Elders in the Second District of India, 227

War, Position and Practices of the Church of the Brethren in Relation to, 100
"Win Men to Christ," 170, 209
Women in the Ministry, 185
World Council Assembly, Statement to, 106
World Council of Churches, Temporary Representation to, 43
Worship, Symbolism in, 182

Yearbook, Expense of Publishing, 123
Youth, Literature for, 174

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